



Trump moves to effectively end asylum at southern border

By COLLEEN LONG

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Reversing decades of U.S. policy, the Trump administration said Monday it will end all asylum protections for most migrants who arrive at the U.S.-Mexico border — the president's most forceful attempt yet to block asylum claims and slash the number of people seeking refuge in America. The new rule, expected to go into effect Tuesday, would cover countless would-be refugees, many of them fleeing violence and poverty in Central America. It is certain to face legal challenges.



In this July 4, 2019 file photo, a group of asylum seekers cross the border between El Paso, Texas, and Juarez, Chihuahua, Mexico, Thursday, July 4, 2019.

Continued on Next Page

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END ASYLUM

Continued from Front

According to the plan published in the Federal Register, migrants who pass through another country — in this case, Mexico — on their way to the U.S. will be ineligible for asylum. The rule also applies to children who have crossed the border alone.

The vast majority of people affected by the rule are from Central America. But sometimes migrants from Africa, Cuba or Haiti and other countries try to come through the U.S.-Mexico border, as well.

There are some exceptions, including for victims of human trafficking and asylum-seekers who were denied protection in another country. If the country the migrant passed through did not sign one of the major international treaties governing how refugees are managed (though most Western countries signed them) a migrant could still apply for U.S. asylum.

Mexican Foreign Relations Secretary Marcelo Ebrard said Monday that his country "does not agree with any measure that limits access to asylum." Mexico's asylum system is also cur-

rently overwhelmed.

Trump administration officials say the changes are meant to close the gap between the initial asylum screening that most people pass and the final decision on asylum that most people do not win.

Attorney General William Barr said that the United States is "a generous country but is being completely overwhelmed" by the burdens associated with apprehending and processing hundreds of thousands of migrants at the southern border.

He also said the rule is aimed at "economic migrants" and "those who seek to exploit our asylum system to obtain entry to the United States."

But immigrant rights groups, religious leaders and humanitarian groups have said the Republican administration's policies amount to a cruel effort to keep immigrants out of the country. Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador are poor countries, often wracked by violence.

"This is yet another move to turn refugees with well-founded fears of persecution back to places where their lives are in danger —



Attorney General William Barr, left, and President Donald Trump turn to leave after speaking about the 2020 census in the Rose Garden of the White House, Thursday, July 11, 2019, in Washington.

Associated Press

in fact the rule would deny asylum to refugees who do not apply for asylum in countries where they are in peril," said Eleanor Acer of Human Rights First.

ACLU attorney Lee Gelernt, who has litigated some of the major challenges to the Trump administration's immigration policies, said the rule was unlawful and the group planned to sue.

"The rule, if upheld, would effectively eliminate asylum for those at the southern border," he said. "But it is patently unlawful."

U.S. law allows refugees to request asylum when they arrive at the U.S. regardless of how they arrive or cross. The crucial exception is for those who have come through a country considered to be "safe," but the Immigration and Nationality Act, which governs asylum law, is vague on how a country is determined safe. It says pursuant to a bilateral or multilateral agreement.

Right now, the U.S. has such an agreement, known as a "safe third country," only with Canada.

Mexico and Central American countries have been considering a regional compact on the issue, but nothing has been decided. Guatemalan officials were expected in Washington on Monday, but apparently a meeting between President Donald Trump and Guatemalan President Jimmy Morales was canceled amid a court challenge in Guatemala over whether the country could agree to a safe-country agreement

with the U.S.

The new rule also will apply to the initial asylum screening, known as a "credible fear" interview, at which migrants must prove they have credible fears of returning to their home country. It applies to migrants who are arriving to the U.S., not those who are already in the country.

Acting Homeland Security Secretary Kevin McAleenan said additional funding given by Congress for aid at the U.S.-Mexico border isn't enough.

"Until Congress can act, this interim rule will help reduce a major 'pull' factor driving irregular migration to the United States."

The treaties that countries must have signed according to the new rule are the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees, the 1967 Protocol or the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment. But, for example, while Australia, France and Brazil have signed those treaties, so have Afghanistan and Libya, places the U.S. does not consider safe.

Along with the administration's recent effort to send asylum seekers back over the border, Trump has tried to deny asylum to anyone crossing the border illegally and restrict who can claim asylum, and the attorney general recently tried to keep thousands of asylum seekers detained while their cases play out.

Nearly all of those efforts have been blocked by

courts.

Tens of thousands of Central American migrant families cross the border each month, many claiming asylum. Border facilities have been dangerously cramped and crowded well beyond capacity. The Department of Homeland Security's watchdog found fetid, filthy conditions for many children. And lawmakers who traveled there recently decried conditions. But many migrants say they are simply too scared to stay in their own countries. Oscar Ponce, a 48-year-old bus driver from Honduras who was waiting in a Mexican border town to cross into the U.S., said he wanted to apply for asylum legally. He left his home after gangs threatened to kill him if he didn't pay their "tax."

"Plan B is through the river," Ponce told The Associated Press in Ciudad Juarez.

Immigration courts are backlogged by more than 800,000 cases, meaning many people won't have their asylum claims heard for years despite more judges being hired.

People are generally eligible for asylum in the U.S. if they fear return to their home country because they would be persecuted based on race, religion, nationality or membership in a particular social group.

During the budget year for 2009, there were 35,811 asylum claims, and 8,384 were granted. During 2018 budget year, there were 162,060 claims filed, and 13,168 were granted. □

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Trump abortion restrictions effective immediately

By RICARDO ALONSO-ZALDIVAR

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Taxpayer-funded family planning clinics must stop referring women for abortions immediately, the Trump administration said Monday, declaring it will begin enforcing a new regulation hailed by religious conservatives and denounced by medical organizations and women's rights groups.

The head of a national umbrella group representing the clinics said the administration is following "an ideological agenda" that could disrupt basic health care for many low-income women.

Ahead of a planned conference Tuesday with the clinics, the Health and Human Services Department formally notified them that it will begin enforcing the ban on abortion referrals, along with a requirement that clinics maintain separate finances from facilities that provide abortions. Another requirement that both kinds of facilities cannot be under the same roof would take effect next year.

The rule is widely seen as a blow against Planned Parenthood, which provides taxpayer-funded family planning and basic health care to low-income women, as well as abortions that must be paid for separately. The organization is a mainstay of the federally funded family planning program and it has threatened to quit over the issue. Planned Parenthood President Leana Wen said in a statement that "our doors are still open" as her organization and other groups seek to overturn the regulations in federal court. "We will not stop fighting for all those across the country

in need of essential care," Wen said.

HHS said no judicial orders currently prevent it from enforcing the rule while the litigation proceeds.

Clare Coleman, president of the umbrella group National Family Planning & Reproductive Health Association, said "the administration's actions show its intent is to further an ideological agenda."

Abortion opponents welcomed the administration's move. "Ending the connection between abortion and family planning is a victory for common-sense health care," Kristan Hawkins, president of Students for Life, said in a statement.

Known as Title X, the family planning program serves about 4 million women annually through independent clinics, many operated by Planned Parenthood affiliates, which serve about 40 percent of all clients. The program provides about \$260 million a year in grants to clinics.

The family planning rule is part of a series of Trump administration efforts to remake government policy on reproductive health. Other regulations tangled up in court would allow employers to opt out of offering free birth control to women workers on the basis of religious or moral objections, and grant health care professionals wider leeway to opt out of procedures that offend their religious or moral scruples.

Abortion is a legal medical procedure, but federal laws prohibit the use of taxpayer funds to pay for abortions except in cases of rape, incest, or to save the life of the woman.

Under the administration's rule, clinic staff would still be permitted to discuss abortion with clients, along

with other options. However, that would no longer be required. The American Medical Association is among the professional groups opposed to the administration's policy, saying it could affect low-income women's access to basic medical care, including birth control, cancer screenings and testing and treatment for sexually transmitted diseases. By law, the family planning program does not pay for abortions. Religious conservatives see the regulation as a means to end what they call an indirect taxpayer subsidy of abortion providers.

Although abortion remains politically divisive, the U.S. abortion rate has dropped significantly, from about 29 per 1,000 women of re-



In this June 28, 2019 file photo, Ashlyn Myers of the Coalition for Life St. Louis, waves to a Planned Parenthood staff member in St. Louis, Mo.

Associated Press

productive age in 1980 to about 15 in 2014. Better contraception, fewer unintended pregnancies and state restrictions may have played a role, according

to a recent scientific report. Polls show most Americans do not want the Supreme Court to overturn Roe v. Wade, the 1973 ruling that legalized abortion. □



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Treasury chief: Facebook currency plan ripe for illicit use

By MARCY GORDON

AP Business Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) —

The Trump administration came out strongly Monday against Facebook's ambitious plan to create a new digital currency, as the Treasury chief warned it could be used for illicit activity such as money laundering, human trafficking and financing terrorism.

Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin expressed "very serious concerns" about the currency proposed by the social network giant, to be called Libra. "This is indeed a national security issue," Mnuchin told reporters at the White House.

His comments came a few days after President Donald Trump tweeted that Libra "will have little standing or dependability."

Trump, fresh off a "social media summit" he led at the White House that gathered conservative critics of Big Tech, tweeted last



Treasury Secretary Steve Mnuchin speaks during a news briefing at the White House, in Washington, Monday, July 15, 2019.

Associated Press

week: "I am not a fan of Bitcoin and other Cryptocurrencies, which are not money, and whose value is highly volatile and based on thin air. Unregulated Crypto Assets can facilitate

unlawful behavior, including drug trade and other illegal activity."

If they want to get into the financial business, Facebook and its dozens of partner companies in the

venture will have to accept the kind of tight regulation that banks are under, the president said.

The Treasury chief's comments went further, though, tying Libra directly to con-

cerns over potential use for money laundering, drug and human trafficking, tax evasion and other crimes.

The Treasury Department has "very serious concerns that Libra could be misused by money launderers and terrorist financiers," he said.

Facebook has "a lot of work to do before we get to the point where we're comfortable with it," Mnuchin said.

On Tuesday, Congress begins two days of hearings on Facebook's Libra plan. The head of the Federal Reserve also raised an alarm about the plan last week.

Facebook's plan "raises a lot of serious concerns, and those would include around privacy, money laundering, consumer protection, financial stability," Fed Chairman Jerome Powell said in congressional testimony. "Those are going to need to be thoroughly and publicly assessed and evaluated before this proceeds." □

GAO: EPA skirted procedures in overhaul of science boards

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Environmental Protection Agency skirted some of its usual procedures and ethics rules when it overhauled key agency advisory boards, slashing the numbers of academic scientists on the panels and appointing more industry figures, the Government Accountability Office said Monday. Senate Democrats had asked for the GAO probe. Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse, a Rhode Island Democrat and one of those requesting the review by the government watchdog, said the administration's trimming of scientists on EPA scientific panels has slowed the agency's regulatory decisions overall, and rigged

the advisory boards "to favor its polluter backers."

The EPA disputed one of the key findings in Monday's GAO report, denying that the agency's senior political appointees privately picked new members for the boards in a way that shut out recommendations by career EPA staffers and left little of a paper trail.

And the agency said it is dealing with the other main GAO criticism — that EPA ethics staff skimmed on proper review of financial disclosures by some of the new panel appointees. The disclosures are required to guard against conflicts of interest for panel members. The agency has doubled the size of its career eth-

ics attorney staff to make sure all agency appointees comply with the disclosure rules, spokesman Michael Abboud said.

President Donald Trump's first EPA administrator, Scott Pruitt, remade many of the panels advising the agency. Pruitt's moves included barring scientists from serving on the advisory boards if they had received EPA research grants. Pruitt, one of the most enthusiastic agents of Trump's rule-cutting, business-friendly mission, resigned amid ethics scandals last summer.

In the first few years of the Trump administration, the share of scientists on the agency's Science Advisory Board dropped by 27 per-

cent, the GAO said. On the Board of Science Counselors, the decline was 45 percent.

Meanwhile, the number of representatives of regulated industries on the Science Advisory Board increased from three to five, the report said. On the other board, it went from one to three.

Pruitt and other EPA political officials strayed from some of the agency's long-standing, documentation-heavy procedures of weighing staff recommendations for new appointees to the panels, the GAO said. EPA officials denied doing anything improper, saying the decisions were hashed out in briefings among senior

managers instead.

Chris Zarba, who retired early last year from his EPA job coordinating two of the main advisory panels, questioned the EPA's account Monday, saying the administration's overhaul of the boards meant there were far too many candidates to consider each adequately in meetings.

"There's no way you can do that verbally," Zarba said. "That would be like designing an aircraft and doing it verbally."

Zarba has criticized the remaking of the panels' membership since leaving. "My opinion is that the intent is to make the science more favorable to special interest," he said. □

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Final blast of torrential rains unleashed by weakened Barry

By KEVIN MCGILL and JEFF MARTIN

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — Tropical Depression Barry spared New Orleans and Baton Rouge from catastrophic flooding, but even as it weakened and moved north through Arkansas, its trailing rain bands swamped parts of Louisiana with up to 17 inches (43 centimeters) of rain and transformed part of the Mississippi Delta into "an ocean."

As of Monday evening, with the center of the storm about 105 miles (170 kilometers) northwest of Little Rock, the National Weather Service said flash flood watches remained in effect in southeast Texas through the lower Mississippi Valley. Forecasters said the storm was expected to produce up to 4 inches (10 centimeters) of rain — and in isolated spots as much as 8 inches (20 centimeters) — across Arkansas, western Tennessee and Kentucky, southeast Missouri, and northwest Mississippi.

No fatalities or serious injuries reported from Barry.

Some of the earliest fears that the storm posed didn't play out: A shift in its path decreased the possibility of major Mississippi River levees being overtopped at New Orleans, where catastrophic levee breaches along canals devastated the city after Hurricane Katrina in 2005. And the torrents of rain forecasters had said were possible — portending repeats of catastrophic Baton Rouge area flooding in 2016 — didn't happen.

"This was a storm that obviously could have played



People walk on a street during a downpour at the French Quarter in New Orleans, Sunday, July 14, 2019.

Associated Press

out very, very differently," Gov. John Bel Edwards said. "We're thankful that the worst-case scenario did not happen."

But the storm was still a huge headache for many. Levees were overtopped along waterways in some coastal parishes. More than 90 people were rescued because of high water in at

least 11 parishes, Edwards said.

And the problems persisted long after Saturday's landfall — when Barry came ashore as a weak hurricane. Deluges hit parts of southwest Louisiana late Sunday into Monday morning.

Calcasieu Parish emergency director Dick Gremillion

estimated northern parts of the parish got 17 inches (43 centimeters) in a few hours. Two people had to be rescued from swamped cars and 19 others were moved from residences threatened by high water, he said.

In Oakdale, Louisiana, Mayor Gene Paul estimated 14 inches (36 centimeters) fell

overnight. He spent part of Monday gathering information on businesses and homes that took on water.

In Evangeline Parish, north of Lafayette, KLFY television showed scenes of water-covered streets and flooded cars in the town of Ville Platte.

For much of Monday a continuous line of showers extended from the southwest to the northeast.

"Please don't drive through these flooded areas," Calcasieu Parish Sheriff Tony Mancuso pleaded with motorists.

"I noticed our rivers coming up real quick," Mancuso said in an interview aired on KPLC-TV. "It's just very serious right now."

In Mississippi, forecasters said 8 inches (20 centimeters) of rain had fallen in parts of Jasper and Jones counties by Monday, with several more inches possible.

"The South Delta has become an ocean," Mississippi Gov. Phil Bryant wrote on Twitter on Monday.

He's calling on the federal government to build pumps to drain water from the confluence of the Yazoo and Mississippi Rivers. The EPA shelved the project in 2008 amid concerns about wetlands and wildlife. The Trump administration has said it might reconsider that decision.

The Edison Electric Institute, a trade association, estimated that there were more than 325,000 power outages reported in multiple states over the course of the storm, and that about 33,000 remained without power as of Monday evening. □

Government restrictions on religion increasing worldwide



In this June 29, 2018, file photo, Rohingya refugees gather near a fence during a government organized media tour to a no-man's land between Myanmar and Bangladesh, near Taungpyolatyar village, Maung Daw, northern Rakhine State, Myanmar.

By **DAVID CRARY**

NEW YORK (AP) — Government restrictions on religion have increased markedly in many places around the world, not only in authoritarian countries, but also in many of Europe's democracies, according to a report surveying 198 countries that was released Monday. The report released by the Pew Research Center, covering developments through 2017, also seeks to document the scope of religion-based harassment and violence. Regarding the world's two largest religions, it said Christians were harassed in 143 countries and Muslims in 140.

This was Pew's 10th annual Report on Global Restrictions on Religion. It said 52 governments, including those in Russia and China, impose high levels of restrictions on religion, up from 40 governments in 2007. It said 56 countries in 2017 were experiencing social hostilities involving religion, up from 39 in 2007.

Pew said the Middle East and North Africa, of the five major regions it studied, had the highest level of government restrictions

on religion, followed by the Asia-Pacific region. However, it said the biggest increase during the 2007-2017 period was in Europe, where the number of countries placing restrictions on religious dress — including burqas and face veils worn by some Muslim women — rose from five to 20.

Among other measures in 2017, Austria enacted a ban on full-face veils in public spaces, and Germany banned face veils for anyone driving a motor vehicle or working in the civil service. In Switzerland, voters in two regions have approved bans on face veils, and voters nationwide backed a ban on the construction of new minarets. In Spain, according to the report, some municipal governors have introduced bans on burqas and face-covering veils, and have also restricted public preaching and proselytizing by such groups as the Jehovah's Witnesses and the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

Circumcision of boys also has been an issue in Europe. Muslim and Jewish groups in Germany and

Slovenia have complained of government officials interfering in their religious traditions by trying to criminalize circumcision for non-medical reasons.

Globally, among the 25 most populous countries, those with the highest level of government restrictions were China, Iran, Russia, Egypt and Indonesia, the report said. The lowest levels of restriction were in South Africa, Japan, the Philippines, Brazil and South Korea.

In terms of government harassment of religious groups, Pew said the phenomenon was most pronounced in the Middle East-North Africa region, but two examples from Asia were highlighted. The report noted that hundreds of thousands of Uighur Muslims were sent to reeducation camps in China, while in Myanmar there were large-scale abuses against the Rohingya, a Muslim ethnic minority, leading to massive displacement.

Another category in the report was religious harassment by individuals and social groups. The United States ranked among the

worst-scoring countries in this category in 2017, in part because of the Unite the Right rally in Charlottesville, Virginia, where white supremacist protesters displayed swastika flags and chanted anti-Semitic slogans.

Pew said the biggest increase in religious hostility by individuals occurred in Europe. Victims of violence, in incidents cited in the report, include Jehovah's Witnesses in Ukraine and a rabbi and a Muslim woman in Belgium.

In Germany, Pew said, there were reports that thousands of refugees were pressured to convert to Christianity after being warned they might otherwise be deported.

Jocelyne Cesari, a professor of religion and politics at the University of Birmingham in Britain, views governmental and societal discrimination against Muslims in Europe as a threat to the broader principles of religious freedom.

She also suggested that headscarf bans and similar laws play into the hands of radical Islamist groups "that build their legitimacy

among some segments of the Muslim youth in Europe by presenting the West as the enemy of the Islamic religion."

Jonathan Laurence, a political science professor at Boston College who has written about Europe's Muslims, said the continent's debate over headscarf bans has strengthened the hand of populist parties while failing to bridge social divisions.

"Ironically, headscarf laws that were intended to force integration have instead accelerated the creation of publicly subsidized religious schools where children may wear what they like," he said in an email.

Religious discrimination and persecution will be the topic of a three-day meeting hosted by the U.S. State Department starting Tuesday in Washington, attended by hundreds of government officials, religious leaders and other participants from all regions of the world.

Previewing the event, Sam Brownback, the U.S. government's ambassador-at-large for international religious freedom, noted that religions of all sorts are vulnerable to persecution.

"Almost every faith that's a majority somewhere is a minority somewhere else and often gets persecuted where they're a minority," Brownback said at a State Department briefing. "So that's why a big part of our effort is to get the faiths to come together and to stand for each other."

"We're not talking common theology here — nobody agrees on theology," he added. "We're talking about a common human right."

Pew's annual reports are compiled by researchers who annually comb through numerous sources of information, including annual reports on international religious freedom by the State Department and the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom, as well as publications by European, U.N. bodies and nongovernmental organizations. □



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Protests spark over construction of telescope in Hawaii

MAUNA KEA, Hawaii (AP)

— Singing, chanting and laying on the ground in the road, hundreds of people demonstrated on Monday against the construction of a giant telescope on a mountaintop that some Native Hawaiians consider sacred.

The protests were the latest salvo in a yearslong fight that pits scientific discovery against cultural preservation.

Scientists hope the massive telescope planned for the site, a world-renowned location for astronomy, will help them peer back to the time just after the Big Bang and answer fundamental questions about the universe. But some Native Hawaiians consider the land holy, as a realm of gods and a place of worship.

At about daybreak Monday, a group of kupuna, or elders, sitting in chairs, tied themselves together with rope and blocked the road to the summit of Mauna Kea. Another group of protesters lay prone on the ground, with their arms shackled under a grate in the road.

The road was officially closed hours after it was essentially blocked by protesters. The elders tied together were expecting to be arrested.

After two protest leaders spoke with police, they addressed the crowd and told them anyone who didn't move would be arrested. The group would move aside, but the elders were expected to remain, protest leaders Kaho'okahi Kanuha and Andre Perez said.

Telescope opponent Jennifer Leina'ala Sleightholm said she hoped peaceful protests would lead to an end of the project while acknowledging that was



Demonstrators are gather to block a road at the base of Hawaii's tallest mountain, Monday, July 15, 2019, in Mauna Kea, Hawaii, to protest the construction of a giant telescope on land that some Native Hawaiians consider sacred.

Associated Press

an unlikely scenario.

"I think I know what will happen, but what I hope will happen is I hope that they would just turn around and save our kupuna," she said, using the Hawaiian word for elders.

A puuhonua, or place of refuge set up at the base of Mauna Kea, won't be swept by authorities, Kanuha and Perez told protesters after consulting with police. Protesters planned to stay overnight.

Groups of activists began gathering on Sunday, singing and praying at the base of the mountain. They declared the area, which is well off the highway at the intersection of the mountain's access road, a place of refuge and safety.

"This is Hawaiian homelands," said Kealoha Pisciotta, one of the protest leaders. "We're clearly out of their way, we're not obstructing anything, everyone is in ceremony."

The project has been delayed by years of legal battles and demonstrations, drawing attention from the likes of "Aquaman" actor Jason Momoa, who has Native Hawaiian ancestry and has voiced opposition to the telescope.

Scientists selected Mauna Kea in 2009 after a five-year, worldwide search for the ideal site.

Protests disrupted a groundbreaking and Hawaiian blessing ceremony at the site in 2014. After that, the demonstrations intensified. Construction stopped in April 2015 after protesters were arrested for blocking the work. A second attempt to restart construction a few months later ended with more arrests and crews pulling back.

Hawaii's Supreme Court has ruled the construction is legal, permits are in place, and the state has given the company behind the telescope a green light to re-

sume building. The company is made up of a group of universities in California and Canada, with partners from China, India and Japan.

Ancient Hawaiians considered the location kapu, or forbidden, according to the University of Hawaii. Only the highest-ranking chiefs and priests were allowed to make the long trek to Mauna Kea's summit above the clouds.

Today, the university leases the land at the summit from the state for existing telescopes and observatories on the summit. A road built for telescope access decades ago is used by thousands of tourists and locals each year, including Native Hawaiians who go there to pray.

Supporters of the \$1.4 billion telescope say the cutting-edge instrument will not only make important scientific discoveries but bring educational and economic opportunities to

Hawaii.

The telescope's primary mirror would measure 98 feet (30 meters) in diameter. It would be three times as wide as the world's largest existing visible-light telescope, with nine times more area.

Gov. David Ige has said unarmed National Guard units would be used to transport personnel and supplies and enforce road closures but would not be used in law enforcement capacity during what could be weeks of protests.

In a news conference Sunday, Ige said that he "respected the right of people to protest" at the telescope site as long as protesters behave lawfully.

"As construction begins, our number one priority is keeping everyone safe," Ige said, adding that he wants to make sure construction workers and truck drivers have unimpeded access to the telescope site. □

EU works to save unraveling nuclear agreement with Iran

By **RAF CASERT**

BRUSSELS (AP) — European Union nations threw their diplomatic weight behind the unraveling Iran nuclear deal on Monday, trying to rescue the pact from collapsing under U.S. pressure. The 28 EU foreign ministers insisted that recent Iranian actions surpassing uranium enrichment thresholds set by the 2015 deal did not necessarily condemn the whole agreement.

"We note that technically all the steps that have been taken — and that we regret have been taken — are reversible. So we hope and we invite Iran to reverse the steps," said EU foreign policy chief Federica Mogherini.

"The deviations are not significant enough to think that Iran has definitively broken the agreement," said Spanish Foreign Minister Josep Borrell, who is in line to succeed Mogherini this fall.

The EU currently has few direct measures for offset-



European Union foreign policy chief Federica Mogherini, left, talks to Spain's Foreign Minister Josep Borrell during a European Foreign Affairs meeting at the European Council headquarters in Brussels, Monday, July 15, 2019.

Associated Press

ting U.S. economic sanctions against Tehran that have crippled the country's economy, and the bloc faces U.S. threats to target any EU companies that attempt to trade with Iran.

Noting that Iran was "still

a good year away" from potentially developing a nuclear bomb, British Foreign Secretary Jeremy Hunt said there was still a "small window to keep the deal alive."

Even if Britain, France, Ger-

many and the rest of the EU held out a helping hand to Iran, the diplomatic puzzle was made more difficult Monday when France's foreign ministry said a researcher with dual French-Iranian nationality had

been arrested in Iran.

It said the French government was seeking information about Fariba Adelkhah and consular access to her "without delay" but added there has been "no satisfactory response to its demands as of today."

Iranian opposition websites based abroad have said Abdelkhah disappeared in June.

And while the EU nations were looking to deescalate tensions in the Persian Gulf region, they also put the blame on the Trump administration for quitting the deal last year, imposing sanctions and trying to keep European nations from trading with Iran.

French Foreign Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian said that Iran's recent moves to surpass mutually agreed limits from the deal were only "a bad reaction following a bad decision — which was the U.S. decision to withdraw from the accord and put sanctions into place." □

France's Macron vows to help restart Serbia-Kosovo talks

By **JOVANA GEC**

BELGRADE, Serbia (AP) — French President Emmanuel Macron vowed Monday to help jumpstart stalled negotiations to resolve Serbia's independence dispute with former province Kosovo so a lasting solution can be found for the decades-long Balkan crisis.

Macron, making the first visit to Serbia by a French president since 2001, also expressed support for the country's stated goal of joining the European Union even as he reiterated his belief that the EU must adopt reforms before adding more members.

His two-day trip was intended to rebuild relations between Serbia and France. Their historically close ties were damaged when NATO forces bombed Serbia in 1999 over the country's actions in Kosovo and by France's recognition of Kosovo's 2008 declaration of independence.

Serbia does not recognize Kosovo as a country. But



Serbian President Aleksandar Vucic, left, and French President Emmanuel Macron walks away from the Gratitude to France WWI monument during a wreath laying ceremony in Belgrade, Serbia, Monday, July 15, 2019.

Associated Press

the EU has set normalized relations between the two countries as a condition for advancing to EU membership. But talks mediated by EU officials have been stalled for months.

Macron said France and Europe would get more engaged in facilitating an end to the bitter rift, which stems from the bloody breakup of the former Yugoslavia during the 1990s.

"Whoever believes in Europe cannot accept the inevitability of never-ending and inextricable conflicts in Europe," Macron said at a news conference with Serbian President Aleksandar

Vucic. "Our commitment is the reflection of a European sovereignty in which we believe and that will stand by your side."

Serbia has officially been on the path to becoming an EU member since 2008. The country also maintains close ties with Russia and China, whose mounting influence in the Balkans has raised Western concerns. Macron urged Belgrade to keep making the reforms it needs for EU membership, saying Serbia's candidacy could progress in parallel to the EU's own improvement process.

"It's a process that's been started but it must be kept in check on both sides," he said. "I think it's a good thing."

Serbia's president said a compromise in the Kosovo dispute was "the only possible solution."

"I urged France to help us on our European road and in solving the Kosovo crisis," Vucic said of his meeting with Macron. □

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<p>TANQUI LEENDERT 139</p>  <p>4 Bed - 3 Bath, Fully Furnished Full renewed, Gourmet Kitchen land: 414 m² / 4,456 Ft² Home: 230 m² / 2,476 Ft² Afl 668.000 \$ 375.000</p>	<p>PIEDRA PLAAT 5 K</p>  <p>3 Bed - 2 Bath, Swimming-pool New, Garage, Fully Furnished land: 472 m² / 5,081 Ft² Home: 140 m² / 1,507 Ft² Afl 693.000 \$ 389.000</p>	<p>PALM BEACH 320</p>  <p>4 Bed - 3 Bath, w/guest casita Hotel area, Fully Furnished land: 520 m² / 5,597 Ft² Home: 250 m² / 2,691 Ft² Afl 801.000 \$ 450.000</p>	<p>PARADERA 179 G</p>  <p>3 Houses in One, over 489m² of Land H.1: 2Bed - 2Bath; 130m²/1400Ft² H.2: 2Bed - 2Bath; 103m²/1109Ft² H.3: 2Bed - 2Bath; 130m²/1400Ft² Afl 850.000 \$ 478.000</p>	<p>ESMERALDA 126</p>  <p>5 Bed - 5 Bath in Esmeralda Swimming pool, Full Fenced land: 750 m² / 8073 Ft² Home: almost 300m² / 3229 Ft² Afl 1.050.000 \$ 590.000</p>

Congo tracing contacts of first Ebola case in eastern city

By KRISTA LARSON

Associated Press

BENI, Congo (AP) — After feeling sick for several days the pastor boarded a bus traveling to eastern Congo's largest city. Only upon arrival at his destination did anyone suspect he had the highly deadly and infectious Ebola virus.

The preacher managed to pass three different health checkpoints along the way, aimed at stopping those who are sick with Ebola and highly contagious. Now health authorities along his route are trying to hunt down all those he may have been in contact with after the man became Goma's first confirmed Ebola case on Sunday.

It's a crucial task to contain the spread of Ebola in Goma, home to more than 2 million people and the largest city to confirm a case of the disease since the epidemic here began nearly a year ago.

"It's the door of this region to the rest of the world," said Dr. Harouna Djingarey, infectious disease program manager for the World Health Organization's regional office in eastern Congo. "From here you can fly to go to everywhere in the world. If we don't have the control over the contacts, some high risk contacts may fly, take a plane



A worker from the World Health Organization (WHO) decontaminates the doorway of a house on a plot where two cases of Ebola were found, in the village of Mabalako, in eastern Congo Monday, June 17, 2019.

Associated Press

and go somewhere."

Health experts have long feared that the disease responsible for killing nearly 1,700 people so far since August would make its way eventually to Goma. The city is an important transit point for the region and beyond, and also a bustling trade hub drawing travelers from throughout the east.

Congo's health ministry sought to reassure people late Sunday that the situation was under control,

though some already were on edge after learning about the sick pastor.

"God help us if Ebola is now in Goma," said Baudouine Rudahigwa, 30, who immediately feared the case could prompt restrictions against her and fellow residents. "My children are now on alert that they can't greet or play with others. They are washing their hands all the time."

The health ministry said that the pastor had preached at seven different churches

during his evangelical trip to Butembo, one of the towns hardest hit by Ebola in Congo. Last Tuesday the preacher fell ill and was seen at home by a nurse before he began his bus trip to Goma.

Somehow he was able to evade detection during the roadside health checkpoints, when all travelers get off the bus, wash their hands and have their temperature taken.

"During the checks, he did not seem to show signs of

the disease. In addition, at each checkpoint he wrote different names and surnames on the lists of travelers, probably indicating his desire to hide his identity and state of health," the ministry said.

Upon arrival in Goma he sought medical treatment and health workers there immediately suspected he had Ebola, which was later confirmed by a lab test. The man remains in an Ebola treatment center in Goma, while authorities try to reconstruct his route.

Congolese health officials have been preparing for months for the possibility a case would emerge in Goma and as a result more than 3,000 frontline health workers already have been vaccinated. Neighboring Rwanda also has taken measures to stop the disease's spread across its border as well.

While the epidemic has become the second deadliest in history with nearly 1,700 killed in Congo, its spread to neighboring African countries has been mostly contained. A family who fell while in Congo did cross the border into neighboring Uganda where two of them then died. However, no one they came into contact with fell ill during the 21-day incubation period after the exposure. □

Police stop 4 kids who drove SUV 600 miles down Aussie coast

By ROD McGUIRK

Associated Press

CANBERRA, Australia (AP)

— Four children aged 10 to 14 packed fishing rods in a parent's SUV, left a farewell note then drove more than 1,000 kilometers (600 miles) down the Australian east coast before they were stopped by police the next day after two fuel thefts and one aborted pursuit, officers said on Monday.

When the children were stopped by police near Grafton in New South Wales state at 10:40 p.m. Sunday, they locked the doors and refused to get out, Acting Police Inspector Darren Williams said.

A police officer used a baton to break a window of the 2004 Nissan Patrol, which had been reported stolen by worried parents, Williams said.

Police were not sure which child or children drove or why they left Rockhampton in Queensland state on Saturday. The children are a 14-year-old boy, two



In this image made from video, New South Wales state police Acting Inspector Darren Williams speaks about child drivers during a news conference in Coffs Harbour, Australia, Monday, July 15, 2019.

Associated Press

13-year-old boys and a 10-year-old girl.

Williams said they possibly shared the driving.

"It's a long way, in excess of 1,000 kilometers (600 miles) from Rockhampton down to Grafton. I couldn't imag-

ine one person actually driving all that way in two days," Williams told reporters.

The children are suspected of failing to pay for fuel at Outback gas stations in the Queensland town of Banana and the New South Wales town of Wialda, police said.

They were also chased by police in the New South Wales town of Glen Innes, where a 13-year-old was suspected to be driving, Williams said.

"There was a short pursuit up there with the Highway Patrol and due to the age of the driver and the road conditions, that was terminated by the Highway Patrol officers ... and the general duties police that were involved," he said.

The 14-year-old lived in Grafton, which might have been the children's destination, Williams said.

Banana Truck Stop cashier Harry White said the SUV drove off without paying for diesel at 4:35 a.m. Sunday. He estimated that the children must have left Rockhampton around midnight. □

Workers recover hundreds of bodies from Syrian mass grave

Associated Press

BEIRUT (AP)

— In an open field on the outskirts of the Syrian city of Raqqa, workers in black uniforms, surgical masks and red hard-hats toil under a scorching sun to dig up bodies from a large mass grave discovered last month.

They have so far unearthed 313 bodies from the grave since it was discovered last month, the official said. All of the dead are men, women and children believed to have been killed or died during the Islamic State group's rule over the northern city, once the de facto capital of the extremist group's so-called Islamic caliphate and the site of atrocities committed by the group against residents who opposed its extremist ideology.

The group at the time commanded large swathes of territory in Syria and Iraq that it administered based on its own radical version of Islamic rule.

U.S.-backed Syrian forces



This Sunday, July 14, 2019 frame grab from video, shows Syrian workers of the Civil Council of Raqqa digging for human remains at the site of a mass grave believed to contain the bodies of civilians and Islamic State militants, in Raqqa.

Associated Press

retook Raqqa from IS in 2017 after a lengthy campaign that left the city in ruins. Since then, an organization known as the Civil Council of Raqqa has been working to uncover mass graves in and around the

city, amid concerns about the preservation of bodies and evidence for possible war crimes trials. International human rights groups say they are concerned that local groups are not getting the support they

need in terms of forensic expertise and human resources.

Yasser al-Khamees, who leads a team of first responders, said workers have unearthed 4,760 bodies from a series of mass

graves starting from January 2018.

The mass grave discovered in mid-June in al-Fukheikha agricultural fields south of the city is the latest grave located in and around Raqqa to date.

An Associated Press video showed workers on a recent day wearing surgical masks using shovels to dig up bodies from the field. Forensic workers then put the remains in white body bags, marking them with the date and location and other details.

Asaad Mohammed, a forensic worker, said workers were exhuming an average of 10 to 12 bodies on daily basis.

"We inspect the body, identify the sex, age, time of death, cause of death. We take samples from each body and give it a number, we document it on official papers and then save the information on a computer database along with samples taken from this area," he said. □

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Taiwan party picks mayor over ex-Foxconn chief for 2020 run

By RALPH JENNINGS

Associated Press

TAIPEI, Taiwan (AP) — Taiwan's main opposition party picked a pro-China populist mayor Monday as its candidate for the 2020 presidential race against an incumbent who often bashes Beijing.

The Nationalist Party said Han Kuo-yu had won the presidential primary after opinion poll results gave him a 45 percent support rating. He defeated four other candidates including former Foxconn Technology chairman Terry Gou and will face incumbent Tsai Ing-wen in the January election.

Han has vowed to make peace with China, and signed deals with four Chinese cities in March to sell 5.2 billion New Taiwan dollars (\$167 million) worth of Taiwanese agricultural products. Tsai has refused to negotiate with China on Beijing's condition that the two sides belong under one flag.

China and Taiwan have been separately ruled since 1949, but Beijing still claims sovereignty over the island and occasionally threatens use of force to take it, if needed. A Taiwan government public opinion survey in January showed that most Taiwanese prefer self-rule.

In November, Han was elected mayor of the port city of Kaohsiung, a traditional ruling party stronghold, largely by pledging to improve the local economy. A rising star, he is a charismatic speaker who often appears with his blue



Kaohsiung city mayor Han Kuo-yu raises hands during a media conference after winning the candidacy of the opposition of the Nationalist Party (KMT) for the upcoming presidential elections at the party headquarters, Monday, July 15, 2019, in Taipei, Taiwan.

Associated Press

shirt sleeves rolled halfway up.

"Han mobilized the middle

class and the lower middle class without paying money," said Joanna Lei,

CEO of the Taiwan-based Chunghua 21st Century Think Tank. Over the past 12

years of Nationalist leaders, she said, "Han Kuo-yu is the only candidate who has a really strong appeal to the lower middle-class voters." Tsai has vociferously stood up to China since taking office in 2016 and particularly since Chinese President Xi Jinping advocated earlier this year that China govern Taiwan under the same "one country, two systems" setup as it rules Hong Kong. Millions of Hong Kong citizens have protested in the streets since June against elements of Chinese rule. Tsai's ruling Democratic Progressive Party suffered a major setback in the November local elections that gave Han the mayoral job. Voters said then that they felt dissatisfied with Tsai's management of the economy, but her anti-China stance has boosted her ratings this year. □

Building collapse kills 12 in India after monsoon rains

Associated Press

NEW DELHI (AP) — Eleven soldiers were among a dozen bodies recovered from the debris of a three-story building that collapsed after monsoon rains hit a hilly area of northern India, officials said Monday.

Rescuers were looking for two to three people still unaccounted after Sunday's collapse, said Gaurav Srivastav, an official from the National Disaster Response Force, or NDRF.

Fire official Raja Ram Bhagat said the dead included 11 army soldiers who were having a party in a ground floor restaurant in

the building when it collapsed. One civilian also was killed.

Several soldiers were among the 31 people rescued after the collapse occurred in Solan, a town in Himachal Pradesh state. The area is 310 kilometers (195 miles) north of New Delhi.

More than 70 NDRF rescuers and 40 fire officers have been clearing the rubble, using earth movers, drillers and gas cutters.

The building shook and collapsed in no time, the Press Trust of India news agency, or PTI, quoted an injured soldier as saying. □



Rescuers of India's National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) look for survivors after a three-story building collapsed in monsoon rains near the town of Solan, a hilly area 310 kilometers (195 miles) north of New Delhi, India, Monday, July 15, 2019.

Associated Press

Salvadoran accused of abortion faces retrial, hefty sentence

By **MARCOS ALEMAN**

Associated Press

SAN SALVADOR, El Salvador (AP) — A young woman who birthed a baby into a toilet in El Salvador faces a second trial for murder Monday in a case that has drawn international attention because of the country's highly restrictive abortion laws.

Evelyn Beatriz Hernández had already served 33 months of her 30-year sentence when the Supreme Court overturned the ruling against her in February and ordered a new trial, with a new judge. This is the first retrial of an abortion case in a country that aggressively pursues legal cases against women who have experienced miscarriages and obstetric emergencies, accusing them of murder.

Women's rights advocates hope the new government of President Nayib Bukele, who took office in June, will soften the country's stance on women's reproductive rights — starting with an acquittal for Hernández. Dozens of women have been jailed in El Salvador with similar convictions. "What Evelyn is living is the nightmare of many women in El Salvador," said her lawyer, Elizabeth Deras. Hernández says she had no idea she was pregnant, as a result of a rape. She recalls making her way to



In this Dec. 13, 2017 file photo, Teodora Vasquez, who was found guilty of what the court said was an illegal abortion via a miscarriage, arrives in handcuffs to a courtroom to appeal her 30-year prison sentence, in San Salvador, El Salvador.

Associated Press

an outhouse in a poor, rural community one day in 2016 with strong abdominal pains. She squatted to defecate, she says, and the baby must have slid to the bottom of the septic tank. Evelyn's mother says she found her daughter passed out next to the makeshift toilet and hailed a pickup truck to transport her to a hospital 30 minutes away. The fetus was 32 weeks old — nearly full term — and forensic examiners weren't able to determine whether the death occurred in the womb, or in the feces. The

cause of death remains unclear.

Both women insist they didn't know there was a baby in the septic tank. Prosecutors don't believe them, though the Supreme Court accepted defense lawyers' argument that no proof had been presented that Hernández caused the baby's death.

The Associated Press only identifies victims of alleged sexual assault by name if the victims themselves go public with the allegations. The trial of Hernández, 21, was set to begin Monday

in what looks to be the first test for women's reproductive rights under Bukele, who is young and has expressed disdain for all forms of discrimination.

Bukele has said he believes abortion is only acceptable when the mother's life is at risk but that he's "completely against" criminalizing women who have miscarriages.

"If a poor woman has a miscarriage, she's immediately suspected of having had an abortion," Bukele said in 2018. "We can't assume guilt when what a woman

needs is immediate assistance."

Women who turn up at public hospitals following a miscarriage are sometimes accused of having killed the fetus.

Recent public opinion polls in El Salvador show broad support for more lenient abortion laws, such as allowing medical interventions when a mother's life is in danger or the fetus is not viable. However, many Salvadorans still believe rape victims should be obligated to carry out their pregnancies.

An intervention on behalf of Hernández would show that Bukele is "interested in the lives of women," said Deras. Morena Herrera, who fights for women's reproductive rights in El Salvador, also urged Bukele to raise his voice "in favor of Evelyn" so that the young woman can get on with her life.

Bukele has not spoken publicly about the Hernández case.

El Salvador is one of three countries in Central America with total bans on abortion, even in cases of rape and incest, or when the mother's life is in danger.

Salvadoran law dictates up to eight years in prison for women who intentionally terminate a pregnancy, and for medical practitioners who assist them. □

Puerto Rico governor rejects calls to resign amid scandal



Police block protesters from advancing to La Fortaleza governor's residence in San Juan, Puerto Rico.

Associated Press

Associated Press

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP)

— Protesters in Puerto Rico

gathered outside La Fortaleza governor's residence on Sunday, demanding

Gov. Ricardo Rosselló step down for his involvement in a private chat in which he used profanities to describe an ex-New York City councilwoman and a federal control board overseeing the island's finances. The demonstrators included teachers, union workers, students, members of a feminist collective and others who congregated in front of the mansion chanting, "Ricky resign, the people don't want you!"

Undersecretary of La Fortaleza's press office, Michelle De la Cruz, said she did not know if the governor was home. The residence's main doors were

padlocked and other entrances were barricaded shut and monitored by police.

Some activists say they are ashamed of the language used by Rosselló in the group chat and the ways the reputation of the U.S. territory might be affected. The chat, which came to light earlier this week, showed that the governor called former New York City Council speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito the Spanish word for "whore," and in English told the oversight board to "go f--- yourself" followed by a string of emojis with the middle finger raised.

Two top officials, Chief Financial Officer Christian Sobrino and Secretary of State Luis G. Rivera Marín have already resigned.

Rosselló said at a church in the capital of San Juan on Sunday that he was humbled by events and would look to God to guide him through "figurative or real" hurricanes.

He said that his "commitment is to learn from what was done" and continue "advancing efforts so that Puerto Rico can move forward." In the afternoon, House and Senate leadership of Rosselló's New Progressive Party were expected to meet. □

LOCAL



Aruba Symphony Festival kicks off this Wednesday

ORANJESTAD — The Aruba Symphony Festival and Academy is an international event where every year, first-class musicians from around the globe make Aruba their destination. During these 12 intensive days of music-making, guest artists and students from more than 15 countries give the happy island an unforgettable experience with full-house concerts, workshops, conferences and classes led by celebrated international artists. Most of these concerts are FREE, some have a small admission and NEW is that the festival offers VIP packages this year. This is an event you don't want to miss. The concerts that are on the program for this Wednesday, Thursday and Friday are:

July 17

CAS DI CULTURA 8:00 pm

Opening Concert

Welcome to Aruba, songs dedicated to Aruba and its nature by Tica Giel, Soprano, St. Ana School's Children's Choir and "Den Harmonia" Female Choir. Variations on the theme "Ah, vous dirai-je, maman!" C Major. KV 265 W.A Mozart by Edith Peña on piano - "Arpeggione" Sonata D. 821 - F. Schubert by Randolph Kelly on violin and Edith Peña on piano and Cello Sonata No. 1 Op. 38 - J. Brahms by Adam Liu on cello and Edith Peña, piano.

July 18

Where: CASIBARI 8.00 PM

What: Classical Jam

Meet our Musicians – at Casibari Cafe



July 19

Where: CAS DI CULTURA 8.00 PM

What: Faculty Concert

Trio for Trumpet, Violin & Piano. "Sonata" – E. Ewazen by Carl Cranmer on piano Olivier Piguet on violin and Jean Christophe Dobrzelewski on Trumpet. Cello Suite No 4 in Eb Major BWV 1010 – J.S Bach by Adam Liu on Cello. Quintet in G minor, Op. 39 – S. Prokofiev by Meghan Woodard on oboe, Boja Kragulj on clarinet, Olivier Piguet on violin, Randolph Kelly on violin and George Amorim on bass.

VIP Access tickets are obtainable at all bookstores, at the four stores of Aruba Vision Center, at Cas di Cultura and at the board members of the Aruba Symphony Festival: Alberto Perret-Gentil (aperret@perretingenieros.com), Johnny Croes (johnnycroes62@gmail.com), Clyde Harms (clydeharms@yahoo.com) y Orietta Mansur (oriettamansur@gmail.com). VIP Access tickets make wonderful gifts for family and friends, personal or commercial. For more about the program and the performers at the Aruba Symphony Festival 2019, visit www.arubasympphonyfestival.com.

Aruban named as next president International Olympic Committee

ORANJESTAD — Nicole Hoevertsz (55), a former synchronized swimmer from Aruba, has been topic for the chit chat in Olympi-land as being the possible next president of the International Olympic Committee (IOC), according to a publication of Inside The Games. At the moment Hoevertsz is a member of the IOC Executive Board. She is a member of the International Olympic Committee since 2006.

While the current president, Thomas Bach, will not be expected to leave until 2025, Hoevertsz' name has been heard to be his successor. The columnist David Owen has written an extensive article about the Aruban and mentions that Hoevertsz did achieve the president ship of the coordination committee of the Los Angeles games in 2028 this year. Also she is the vice-president of this same commit-

tee for the Paris games in 2024. These titles often indicate a future president ship for the IOC as is stated in the article. No to be forgotten is the appointed chair of the Olympic Athletes from Russia (OAR) Implementation Group during the winter games 2017 in Pyeongchang, a sure sign she was considered the safest of safe pairs of hands, Owen wrote.

Hoevertsz is quoted: "It is amazing that somebody from a small island like Aruba, a woman from a country that has never won an Olympic medal, that I am where I am today. I am very much aware of that and I am very appreciative of that. This is not just for big countries: I am a product of the universality of what the Olympic Movement stands for, and I am very much a defender of that principle because if it was just the big and powerful countries, I would not be sitting here." □





Article by Etnia Nativa

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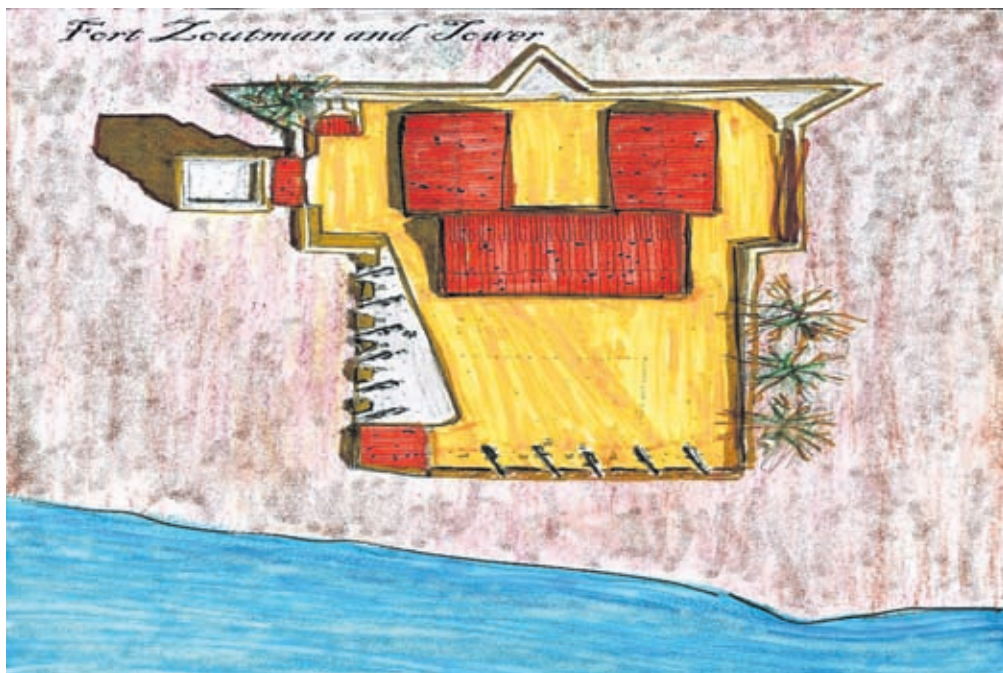
All for the red Aruban gold

Playa, was and still is how everyone referred to the area of Horses bay. The beach at the salt lake and the fresh water well close to the village, they all are gone today.



Pic. 1 Sketch of horse bay area from around the year 1796.

Since the Spaniards anchored here, five centuries ago, it was thought to be a safe harbor for unloading livestock. Horses swam ashore to be herded by the Indians who had a special way with horses. The method was to have someone stand on the beach holding a horse on a leash, while other riders were ready



Pic. 2. Sketch by A.F. Lancker full battery of the fort.

Episode XXVI



Pic.3. Johan Rudolph Lauffer Dire teur 1796 1803.

to indicate the incoming herds where to swim to. This spot was known as Taratata, by the Caquetios. However they claimed it meant "place of arrival" told by the old ones, the Paleo ancestors, who lived here way before us. They had an encampment at both sides of the entrance of a narrow lagoon. At that time it was all covered with vegetation. This same lagoon went way in land reaching a zone called Tarabana. At Playa on a good day, you could find canoes, piraguas and Cayucos on the beach. Boats of various sizes dug out from tree trunks and all fantastically decorated. The layback life changed abruptly when gold was found by a Dutch mestizo sheep herder called Willem Rasmijn. Trade activities exploded, like a rocket though the sky. This even made the commanders consider moving office from Commanders bay to Horses bay. Merchants and gold smiths of Curacao soon settled at the foot hill on the path going to the town of Noord. Now the story of Aruban gold reached the ears of freebooters, pirates and buccaneers. Strange ships could be seen at the horizon. You did not really needed to be a corsair; anyone who wanted to get

some of it could do so for their own. Now, something had to be done to maintain peace and order under the citizens Governor Johan Rudolf Lauffer (1796-1803), a Swiss by birth, had the idea that a fort was very necessary and had some designs presented. Rather against war fleets of European armed forces, forts in overseas areas should withstand any privateer incursion. The fort was constructed and four pieces of artillery were mounted there in 1797. From that time the number of people coming to live on the bay itself constantly increased. This was the reason why Commander Borchard Specht (from 1792) or his grandson Pieter Specht (from 1803) shifted the seat of authority.

Continued on Page 15

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All for the red Aruban gold

Continued from Page 14

When Commanders' Bay was deserted and the people settled on the Ponton hill, the administrations also moved there. Now that it had become safer to live on the bay and a new dwelling-Centre was arising around it and the commander established his headquarters there too.

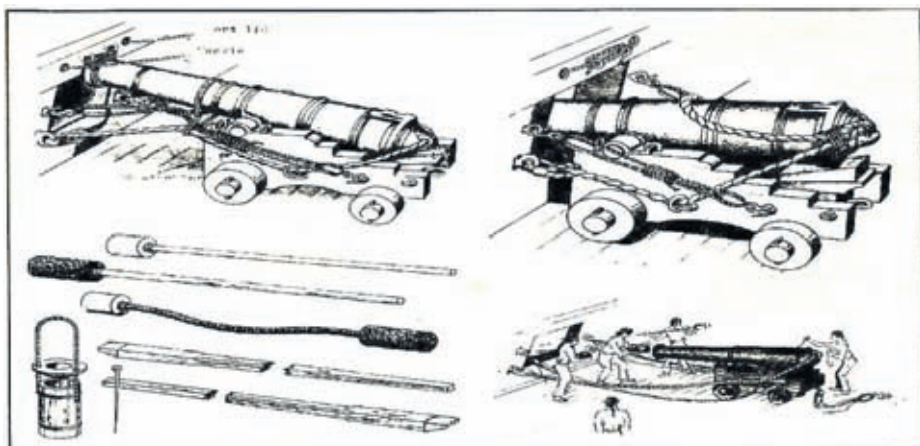
Oral tradition says that Commander Bruin Govertsz Quant (1805-6) still resided at Ponton. A removal after Quant would be plausible.

Quant's house was razed to the ground by the English. In fact, until the coming of Boye in 1816, our information about the commanders is very confusing indeed. It does not seem to be known where Boye lived, but about Jan van der Biest III, who superseded him, in the capacity of vice-commander in 1819, tradition reports that he used to live at a place where now Windstraat runs. In Van der Biest's time there still was "mondi" (An Aruban word denoting barren soil over-grown with weeds and cactuses). The story tells us that the old

kwihi-tree- it has survived till the present day- was already standing there at that time. People now belonging to the oldest generation relate that they heard that under this kwihi-tree Van der Biest used to play his violin in the evening, seated before his country-house. A delightful scene from Aruba's age of repose: The commander in his garden, playing his violin to his family, in the background some slaves serving (uncooled) refreshments. A peacefulness only slightly disturbed by an occasional visitor who, on horseback, or straddling a

donkey, comes to pay his respects to the commander and his family.

We have anticipated events here in order to be able to give a continuous survey of the removals of the commander's residence. Together with this functionary an increasing number of persons settled "on the Bay", as it was then commonly called. The construction of the Fort had made life reasonably safe there, though his safety will prove anything but absolute in the period to be discussed in the next episode. □



4. Naval canons used at Fort Zoutman.



Pic. 5. Sailing to the Bay of Horses.

Listen on World Listening Day



By Melissa Martin

OHIO — Shhh...do you hear that? Close your mouth and eyes. Open your ears and pay attention. It's the sound of World Listening Day approaching; an annual global event held every July 18. www.worldlisteningproject.org.

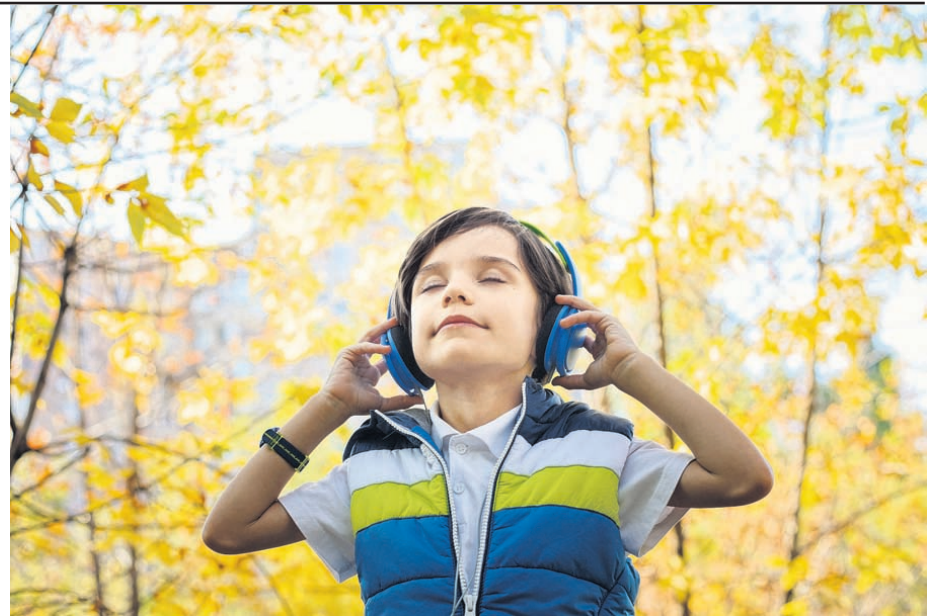
The 2019 theme is "Listening With" created by internationally acclaimed sound artist Annea Lockwood. "Listening with an awareness that all around you are other life-forms simultaneously listening and sensing with you – plant roots, owls, cicadas, voles – mutually intertwined within the web of vibrations which animate and surround

our planet."

The World Listening Project (WLP) is a not-for-profit organization devoted to understanding the world and its natural environment, societies and cultures through the practices of listening and field recording. The WLP was founded in 2008 and is supported by the Midwest Society for Acoustic Ecology, a non-profit membership organization affiliated with the World Forum for Acoustic Ecology.

The World Forum for Acoustic Ecology (WFAE), founded in 1993, is an international association of affiliated organizations and individuals, who share a common concern with the state of the world's soundscapes. Its members represent a multi-disciplinary spectrum of individuals engaged in the study of the social, cultural and ecological aspects of the sonic environment. www.wfae.net. The International Conference on Acoustic Ecology will be held in October 2019.

The American Society for Acoustic Ecology (ASAE) is a membership organization dedicated to promoting a holistic understanding of sound, listening, and environment through research and creative exploration. www.acousticecology.us.



Human Listening

What can listening to nature teach humans? A lot.

Relaxing by a seashore, hiking through the forest, or walking in a park can calm the brain and body. And reduce stress. Being in nature involves myriad senses: listening, seeing, smelling, and feeling. But, acoustic ecology studies sounds.

Research is surmising that nature sounds can physically modify the synapses in the brain. And the changes in the brain influence the body. How many people use meditation apps with nature sounds to promote sleep? How many trauma victims use nature as a healing place?

Mother Nature is mothering. Listen to the sound of the wind rustling leaves. Listen to birds singing. Listen to the surge of ocean waves. Ahhh. That's how I spell relief. Spending time in nature with open ears can be beneficial for human beings.

"The Listening Walk," a picture book for kids, by Paul Showers is recommended.

A little girl and her father take a quiet walk and identify the sounds around them. Soon the girl discovers an extraordinary world of sounds in her everyday environment.

Turn Down Sound Pollution

As noted in Bernie Krause's book, *The Great Animal Orchestra*, "A great silence is spreading over the natural world even as the sound of man is becoming deafening. Little by little the vast orchestra of life, the chorus of the natural world, is in the process of being quietened. There has been a massive decrease in the density and diversity of key vocal creatures, both large and small. The sense of desolation extends beyond mere silence."

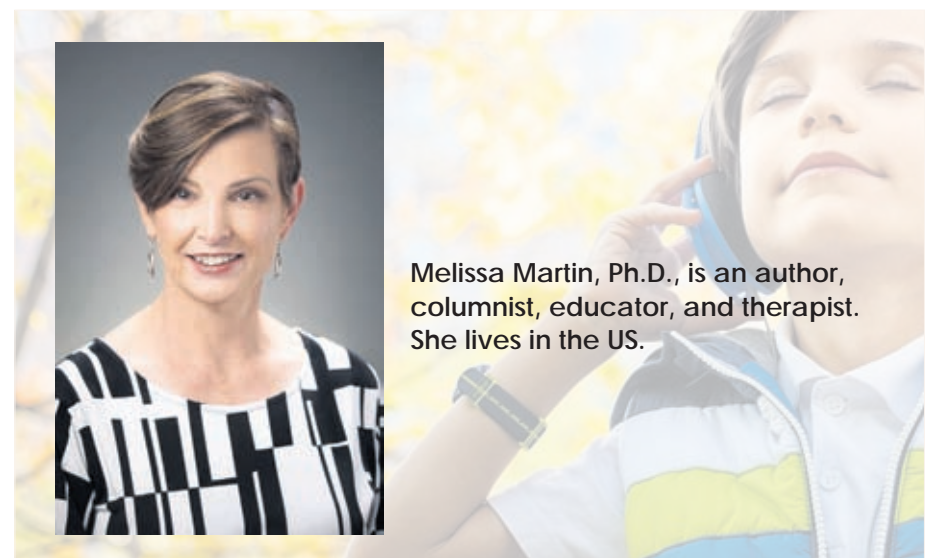
Rock-in with the Natural World

Turn off technology and go outside to listen. The woods are full of natural sounds. Take a picnic basket and a blanket. Put on your listening ears and enjoy.

Take the in-ear headphones out when you visit the beach. Turn off the human music for a while. Listen to the rhythmic vibrations of nature. □

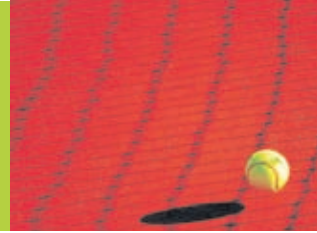
"I only went out for a walk and finally concluded to stay out till sundown, for going out, I found, was really going in."

—John Muir



Melissa Martin, Ph.D., is an author, columnist, educator, and therapist. She lives in the US.

SPORTS



Kurt Busch celebrates his win in the NASCAR Cup Series auto race at Kentucky Speedway in Sparta, Ky., Saturday, July 13, 2019.

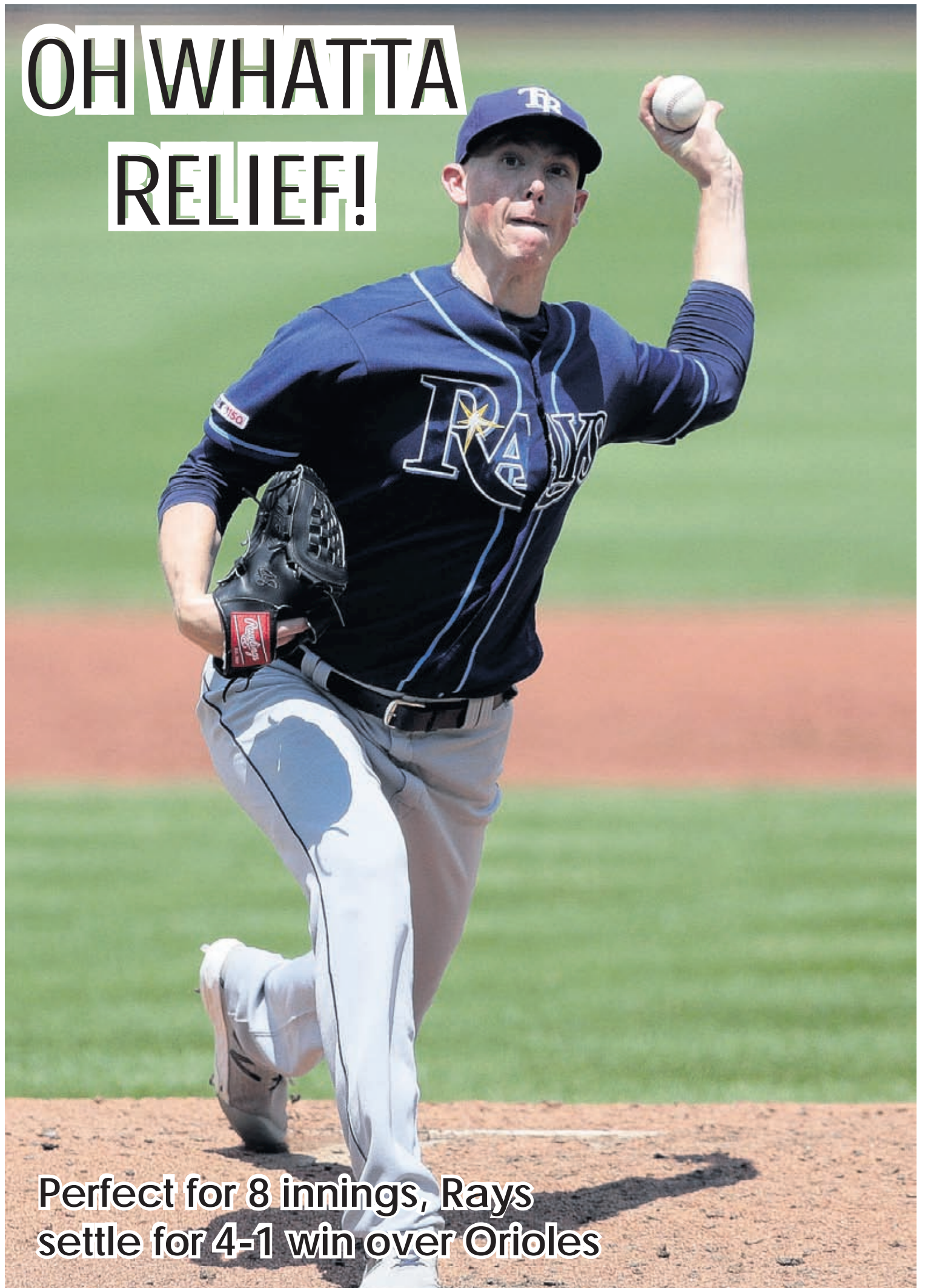
Associated Press

Kurt Busch still wheelman 20 years into rocky career

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP) — Kurt Busch has been called many things during his tumultuous 20 seasons at NASCAR's top level. He is ornery, easily unhinged and has lost control of his temper enough times that it nearly derailed his career. But the most important descriptor for Busch is one often overlooked. He is a wheelman, one of the very best in NASCAR, and in the twilight of his career Busch has a chance to make that his lasting mark. Busch beat his brother head-to-head for the first time at the Cup level in a dramatic, two-lap overtime shootout at Kentucky Speedway for Busch's first victory with new team Chip Ganassi Racing. It was the third time Kurt and Kyle Busch have finished 1-2 in a Cup race, but the first time Kurt got the best of his little brother.

Continued on Page 21

OH WHATTA RELIEF!



Perfect for 8 innings, Rays settle for 4-1 win over Orioles

Tampa Bay Rays relief pitcher Ryan Yarbrough throws to a Baltimore Orioles batter during the third inning of a baseball game, Sunday, July 14, 2019, in Baltimore.

Associated Press
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Franco's walkoff homer lifts Phillies past Nationals 4-3

By The Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Maikel Franco homered with one out in the bottom of the ninth inning and Philadelphia avoided a sweep by Washington.

J.T. Realmuto, who had an RBI single in the fourth, also homered for the Phillies, who also got a two-run single from Jean Segura.

Trea Turner, Matt Adams and Howie Kendrick drove in runs for the Nationals, who lost for just the third time in 15 games. Matt Grace (0-2) took the loss.

Washington's pitching staff entered having allowed 102 homers, fewest in the NL and second-fewest in the majors behind Tampa Bay.

Phillies starter Jake Arrieta gave up one run and four hits in five innings.

Nationals right-hander Anibal Sanchez allowed three runs and six hits in six innings.

BRAVES 4, PADRES 1

SAN DIEGO (AP) — Freddie Freeman hit a three-run homer in the eighth inning and All-Star rookie Mike Soroka struck out a career-high nine to win his 10th straight decision as Atlanta finished off a three-game sweep.

The NL East-leading Braves have won seven of eight.

Soroka (10-1) lost his season debut on April 18 against Atlanta but has won each of his last 10 decisions since April 24, a span of 15 starts. He got Sunday's decision thanks to Freeman's shot deep to right field off Trey Wingenter (1-2) with two outs in the eighth. Soroka allowed six hits in seven scoreless innings and walked one. His previous strikeout high was eight in a 3-1 home win against San Diego on April 29. The 21-year-old made five starts in 2018.

A.J. Minter pitched the ninth for his fifth save.

ROCKIES 10, REDS 9

DENVER (AP) — Ryan McMahon singled, doubled, tripled and drove in three runs to lead Colorado.

A day after the Reds romped 17-9, Colorado bounced back with a couple of big innings.

McMahon hit a two-run



Philadelphia Phillies' Maikel Franco follows through after hitting the game-winning home run off Washington Nationals relief pitcher Matt Grace during the ninth inning of a baseball game, Sunday, July 14, 2019, in Philadelphia.

Associated Press

double as the Rockies scored four times in the first inning. He had an RBI triple in a six-run fifth that made it 10-5.

Phillip Ervin, who tied a Reds record with six hits on Saturday night, had a leadoff triple in a four-run sixth that made it close.

It took the back end of the Rockies bullpen to finally quiet down the Reds. Scott Oberg pitched two scoreless innings and Wade Davis worked a perfect ninth for his 14th save.

Antonio Senzatela (8-6) got the victory despite allowing eight runs and seven hits in 5 1/3 innings.

Tyler Mahle (2-10) allowed 10 runs — six earned — on 12 hits in 4 1/3 innings in losing a fifth consecutive decision.

METS 6, MARLINS 2

MIAMI (AP) — Robinson Cano homered for the second consecutive game, helping New York beat Miami.

Cano finished 4 for 5 for his first four-hit game since May 7 at San Diego.

Jacob deGrom (5-7) pitched five innings and allowed six hits and one run for the Mets. He struck out six and walked three.

Jeff McNeil also homered and knocked in a pair of runs for the Mets. Pete Alonso, Michael Conforto, and Adeiny Hechavarria

each drove in a run.

Miami's Sandy Alcantara (4-9) tossed six innings, allowing nine hits and four runs. Miguel Rojas went 3 for 5 with an RBI single, and Garrett Cooper hit his 10th homer in the ninth.

GIANTS 8, BREWERS 3

MILWAUKEE (AP) — Tyler Beede pitched effectively into the seventh inning, had two hits and drove in the go-ahead run in San Francisco's win over Milwaukee. Brandon Belt homered for the Giants, who took two out of three in the series.

Belt's solo homer with one out in the fifth, his 11th of the season, off Milwaukee starter Jhoulys Chacin put the Giants in front 2-1. Christian Yelich hit his 32nd homer of the season in the sixth.

Corbin Burnes (1-5) gave up four hits and four runs without retiring a batter. Beede (3-3) gave up seven hits and three runs in 6 2/3 innings. He struck out seven and didn't walk a batter.

CARDINALS 5, DIAMONDBACKS 2

ST. LOUIS (AP) — Paul Goldschmidt homered, Adam Wainwright pitched seven scoreless innings, and St. Louis held on to beat Arizona.

Wainwright (6-7) allowed four hits, walked one and struck out seven. Carlos Martinez earned his fifth

save.

Domingo Leyba and Jarrod Dyson had RBI singles for Arizona.

Zack Greinke (10-4) gave up five runs in six innings. The loss snapped a five-

year July winning streak for the Arizona ace, who entered the game 14-0 with a 1.34 ERA in his last 18 starts in the month dating back to July 25, 2014.

CUBS 8, PIRATES 3

CHICAGO (AP) — Jason Heyward, Albert Almora Jr. and Kyle Schwarber hit home runs and Chicago completed a three-game sweep of Pittsburgh.

The NL Central leaders posted their first series win since taking all three from St. Louis on June 7-9.

Robel Garcia had a pair of doubles and Anthony Rizzo added two hits as Chicago improved to 32-16 at Wrigley Field.

Bryan Reynolds got two hits and drove in a run for Pittsburgh, which has dropped five of seven.

Cubs starter Jose Quintana (7-7) allowed three runs on six hits in six innings to win his third straight start. The left-hander struck out four and walked two.

Trevor Williams (3-3) took the loss. □

South Korea's Sei Young Kim wins Marathon Classic

SYLVANIA, Ohio (AP) — Sei Young Kim won the Marathon Classic on Sunday for her second LPGA Tour victory of the season, making five straight birdies in a mid-round burst and shooting a 6-under 65 for a two-stroke victory over Lexi Thompson. Kim began the birdie run on No. 7 and finished at a tournament-record 22-under 262 at Highland Meadows Golf Club. The 26-year-old South Korean player has nine tour titles, also winning the LPGA M&M Championship in May in California.

"I really wanted another win, especially this week, because the last two weeks I play really bad," Ki said. Thompson, a stroke behind Kim entering the day, closed birdie-eagle for a 66.

"She played some amazing golf," Thompson said. "I

didn't have my best ball-striking day, but 5 under, finished well. She played amazing. It's very well deserved."

Six shots ahead of Thompson after the birdie run, Kim played the final seven holes in even par, offsetting a birdie on 15 with a bogey on 1. Kim broke the event mark of 263 set by In-Kyung Kim in 2017.

She's focused on winning her first major title, with The Evian Championship and Women's British Open coming up.

"I haven't had a win the major tournament yet," Kim said. "I think I try too much when I play the major tournament. I just play the same as regular tournament, even major. ... Just let it go. Let it happen."

Stacy Lewis was third at 16 under after a 66. She was born in nearby Toledo. □

Rays carry combined perfect game into 9th, beat Orioles 4-1

By The Associated Press
BALTIMORE (AP) — The Tampa Bay Rays took a combined perfect game into the ninth inning before Hanser Alberto beat the shift with a leadoff single against Ryan Yarbrough, wrecking history in the making and taking some of the edge off their 4-1 victory over the Baltimore Orioles on Sunday.

Ryne Stanek pitched the first two innings before Yarbrough took over. Yarbrough was literally unhittable — until the ninth. Tampa Bay's try for the first combo perfect game in the majors came two days after a pair of Los Angeles Angels pitchers teamed up for a no-hitter.

Alberto pushed a grounder to the right side, precisely where the second baseman usually stands. Stevie Wilkerson followed with a single, and an RBI single by Anthony Santander off Oliver Drake enabled Baltimore to break up the shut-out.

Emilio Pagan struck out Trey Mancini for his sixth save. Yarbrough (8-3) allowed only five balls out of the infield by Baltimore, all of them becoming routine outs.

Michael Brosseau and Austin Meadows homered off Tom Eshelman (0-2) as Rays won three of four from the Orioles, who own the worst record in the majors.

DODGERS 7, RED SOX 4, 12 INNINGS

BOSTON (AP) — Max Muncy drew a bases-loaded walk and Alex Verdugo had an RBI single during a three-run 12th inning, and Los Angeles beat Boston in another late-night showdown of last year's pennant winners.

The teams needed 5:40 to decide the series finale. It was Los Angeles' third win in 14 tries (including World Series games) at Fenway Park.

Boston got back-to-back homers from Xander Bogaerts and J.D. Martinez in the eighth against Pedro

Báez but stranded seven runners over the final four innings.

Los Angeles' Joc Pederson opened the 12th with a walk against Hector Velázquez (1-4), and Cody Bellinger was awarded first base by the umpires when he collided with the pitcher as he was running down the line after first baseman Brock Holt bobbled his grounder. A.J. Pollock singled before Muncy drew his go-ahead walk. Verdugo then singled, making it 6-4. A third run came on Russell Martin's fielder's choice.

Dylan Floro (4-2) pitched 1 1/3 scoreless innings for the victory. Former Red Sox reliever Joe Kelly struck out the final two batters for his first save.

Pollock hit a short three-run homer down the right field line in the first inning against David Price and added an RBI single.

YANKEES 5, BLUE JAYS 2

NEW YORK (AP) — Masahiro Tanaka pitched six strong innings, Gio Urshela drove in two runs, and New York beat Toronto.

Tanaka (6-5) allowed two runs, four hits and struck out five without a walk. Aroldis Chapman pitched a perfect ninth for his 25th save in 28 chances.

The Yankees took a 2-0 lead in the second inning on Urshela's two-run single to left field off Toronto starter Marcus Stroman (5-10). Stroman, a New York native, started for the first time since June 29 after being sidelined with a left pectoral cramp. He gave up three runs and seven hits in six innings while striking out seven and walking two.

Randal Grichuk and Eric Sogard had solo homers in the fifth for Toronto.

Mike Tauchman hit his fifth homer of the season for New York.

INDIANS 4, TWINS 3

CLEVELAND (AP) — Carlos Santana hit a solo home run that broke a seventh-inning tie and Cleveland



Tampa Bay Rays pitchers Ryan Yarbrough (48) and Ryne Stanek embrace after giving an interview after a baseball game against the Baltimore Orioles, Sunday, July 14, 2019, in Baltimore.

Associated Press

avoided a sweep against AL Central-leading Minnesota.

Santana lined an 0-2 pitch from Trevor May (3-2) into the right-field seats for his 21st homer of the season.

Adam Cimber (5-2) pitched 1 1/3 innings and worked out of two jams. The right-hander struck out Nelson Cruz with the bases loaded to end the seventh and whiffed Miguel Sanó with the tying run on second to finish the eighth. Brad Hand pitched the ninth for his 24th save in 25 opportunities.

Shane Bieber took a three-hit shutout into the seventh before Minnesota rallied with three runs and tied the game.

Twins All-Star José Berríos allowed three runs in five innings.

ANGELS 6, MARINERS 3

ANAHEIM, Calif. (AP) — Rookie Matt Thaiss hit a tie-breaking three-run homer in the eighth inning, and Los Angeles completed a three-game sweep.

Mike Trout left the game before the third inning due to right calf tightness, but the Angels (48-46) kept rolling two days after their cathartic no-hit victory in their first home game since the death of pitcher Tyler Skaggs.

After Kole Calhoun walked and went to third on pinch-hitter Justin Bour's two-out single off Anthony Bass (1-3), Thaiss connected off Seattle's Roenis Elias for his first

career homer and helped the Angels to their sixth win in nine games since Skaggs' death.

Ty Buttrey (5-4) pitched the eighth, and Hansel Robles finished for his 13th save.

Calhoun hit his 21st homer for the Angels and Shohei Ohtani got his 100th major league RBI for the Angels, who also tagged out three Mariners at the plate. Domingo Santana and Austin Nola homered for the Mariners, who have lost seven of eight.

ATHLETICS 3, WHITE SOX 2

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP) — Chad Pinder scored all the way from first base when White Sox shortstop Jose Rondón made a throwing error trying to start a double play in the ninth inning and Oakland beat Chicago.

After acquiring pitcher Homer Bailey from Kansas City earlier in the day, the A's completed a three-game sweep. They have won 10 of 12 to put themselves in solid playoff contention.

Pinder singled as a pinch-hitter off Jace Fry (1-4) to begin the ninth. Ramón Laureano, who homered in the eighth to tie it at 2, followed with a sharp grounder to the left side of the infield.

Rondón made a backhanded stop, hurried and threw on the run. But the ball sailed past second baseman Yolmer Sánchez and rolled into the large foul territory near Chicago's

bullpen, and Pinder scored standing up.

Liam Hendriks (4-0) retired three batters to win.

Eloy Jiménez homered for the White Sox.

ASTROS 12, RANGERS 4

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP) — Justin Verlander followed a two-run first inning with five no-hit innings and José Altuve hit Houston's franchise-record ninth grand slam of the season.

Verlander (11-4) gave up four hits, all singles, and struck out seven. He retired his last 15 batters following a leadoff walk in the second inning as the Astros salvaged a split of the four-game series after losing the first two games.

Verlander didn't allow a home run for the first time since June 6. He has given up a major league high 26 homers this season — four shy of his career high in a full season.

Altuve, the Astros' leadoff hitter with George Springer given the day off, had three hits and scored three times after having four hits in Saturday's 11-inning win. Ariel Jurado (5-5) gave up five runs in the first two innings pitching on six days' rest in making his first start since July 3.

TIGERS 12, ROYALS 8

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) — Jeimer Candelario hit a bases-clearing double and Gordon Beckham added a two-run homer during a seven-run third inning, and Detroit beat Kansas City. □

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Wimbledon champ Halep up to No. 4, Serena No. 9; Gauff 141st

By **HOWARD FENDRICH**
AP Tennis Writer

WIMBLEDON, England (AP)

— Simona Halep's Wimbledon championship lifted her from No. 7 to No. 4 in the WTA rankings on Monday, while runner-up Serena Williams moved up one spot to No. 9, her best placing since returning to the tour last season after having a baby.

Halep beat Williams in Saturday's final with surprising ease, 6-2, 6-2.

Coco Gauff's magical run from a wild-card entry in qualifying all the way to the fourth round at the All England Club allowed her to move into the WTA's top 150 for the first time.

The 15-year-old American rose 172 places to No. 141 from No. 313 before the tournament. Gauff was the youngest player to ever qualify for the main draw at Wimbledon, then beat five-time champion Venus Williams on the way to

reaching the fourth round. That is when Gauff lost to eventual champion Halep.

Two other big jumps came from Barbora Strycova of the Czech Republic and Lauren Davis of the U.S.

The 33-year-old Strycova became the oldest first-time Grand Slam semifinalist in the professional era before losing to Williams, allowing her to move up 22 places to No. 32. Strycova also took over at No. 1 in the doubles rankings on Monday by winning that title at Wimbledon.

After losing in qualifying, Davis made it into the main draw when someone else withdrew. She then eliminated Angelique Kerber in the second round to become the first "lucky loser" to beat a defending champion at a major in the professional era and went up 13 spots to 75th.

Kerber dropped from No. 5 to 13th.

French Open champion



Winner Romania's Simona Halep and second placed United States' Serena Williams, right, pose with their trophies after the women's singles final match on day twelve of the Wimbledon Tennis Championships in London, Saturday, July 13, 2019.

Associated Press

Ash Barty remains at No. 1 in singles, followed by two-time major champion Naomi Osaka and Karolina Pliskova.

Wimbledon men's champ Novak Djokovic stayed atop the ATP rankings after his 7-6 (5), 1-6, 7-6 (4), 4-6,

13-12 (3) victory over Roger Federer on Sunday in the longest final in tournament history. Rafael Nadal is No. 2 and Federer is No. 3.

Roberto Bautista Agut, who lost to Djokovic in the semifinals, went from No. 22 to No. 13, equaling his

career high. Daniil Medvedev's third-round showing let him crack the top 10 for the first time at No. 10; he was ranked 13th before Wimbledon. Sam Querrey, beaten by Nadal in the quarterfinals, lifted his ranking by 26 spots to No. 39. □

AP source: Simmons, 76ers agree to \$170M, 5-year deal

By **DAN GELSTON**

AP Sports Writer

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — The Philadelphia 76ers and star guard Ben Simmons have agreed to a \$170 million, five-year contract extension, a person familiar with the situation told The Associated Press. The max deal is the latest big commitment by a team expected to make a serious push at its first NBA championship since 1983.

Simmons, 22, will make about \$8.1 million this season, the last of his four-year rookie deal. His salary for the next season will jump to about \$29.3 million and rise to nearly \$39 million in 2024-25, according to the person who spoke to the AP on condition of anonymity Monday because the contract is not official.

The deal solidifies the 76ers' core for the next few seasons. All-Star Joel Embiid and Al Horford are under contract though 2023, To-

bias Harris through 2024 and now Simmons through 2025. Horford got a \$109 million, four-year deal and Embiid agreed last season to a \$147 million, five-year deal.

Sixers general manager Elton Brand had until the middle of October to reach a max deal with Simmons but wasted little time in locking up another cornerstone player. Simmons was the No. 1 overall draft pick in the 2016. He made his NBA debut in the 2017-18 season and was Rookie of the Year. He was an All-Star for the first time last season. He has averaged 16.4 points, 8.5 rebounds and 7.9 assists in his two seasons.

"I think I want to work on everything and continue to let my game grow," Simmons said at the end of the season. "I think the one thing I got a lot better at this season was leadership." The Sixers were knocked out of the Eastern Confer-

ence semifinals for the second straight season.

Philadelphia is 101-58 in regular-season games when Simmons plays. He has had 22 triple-doubles in the last two seasons, tied for third most in the league with Denver's Nikola Jokic and trailing Oklahoma City's Russell Westbrook (59) and the Los Angeles Lakers' LeBron James (26).

Simmons also has had 80 double-doubles over the last two seasons.

But he missed all 11 3-point attempts his rookie season and was 0 for 6 last season, a combination of an awkward shooting form and a hesitancy to keep shooting shots he can't make. Defenses sagged on Simmons daring him to shoot because the speedy All-Star can't do much outside the paint.

"I don't think it's taking shots just to take them," Simmons said. "I think it's just being aggressive and doing my



In this Jan. 13, 2019, file photo, Philadelphia 76ers' Ben Simmons reacts after dunking during the first half of an NBA basketball game against the New York Knicks in New York.

Associated Press

job. I don't think it's any certain shot. But when you give me the ball, I'm able to make plays."

Harris, who re-signed with the Sixers this summer on a \$180 million, five-year contract, recently worked out with Simmons in Los Angeles and found him dedicated to improving his shot.

"Everybody was trying to

figure out why I was guarding him at the 3-point line, but it was really because he hit two of them," Harris said. "When I dared him to shoot two of them, he hit two in a row. That's why I was there. He's made big improvements on his game. His jump shot is looking really good and he has the confidence to shoot." □

Continued from Page 17

The win came a week after a horrible pit call in Daytona cost Busch and the No. 1 team a victory. Busch had slid through a massive accident unscathed to take the lead, and as NASCAR said the race was one lap away from resuming, crew chief Matt McCall called Busch in for a quick pit stop.

A lightning strike seconds later halted all action and the race was eventually called, costing Busch, McCall and Ganassi the victory.

So how sweet it was Saturday night when McCall used a late call to change four tires, putting Busch in position to challenge for the Kentucky victory when the race took a sudden turn and headed to overtime. Busch charged hard toward the front, eventually got alongside Kyle and neither refused to budge. Their cars touched, wiggled, Kurt appeared to bang the wall, both seemed to hanging onto the steering wheel as if they were racing for the NASCAR championship.

After Kurt got to the checkered flag first, he dove into the arms of his waiting crew, celebrated on the frontstretch, then did an old-school trip to victory lane with his crew riding along on his Chevrolet. One team member proudly waved the checkered flag for the journey.

The victory was the 31st career Cup win for Busch, the 2004 NASCAR champion, and extended his streak of winning at least one race a year to six consecutive seasons. Busch has just three winless years in 19 full Cup seasons — his rookie year, and then in 2012 and 2013 when he was trying to salvage his career after he was fired by Roger Penske for too many public blow-ups.

But he landed at Furniture Row Racing in 2013 and was the conduit in building a backmarker team into a championship contender. Busch's time with the Colorado-based team was just one season, but his knowledge of race cars and how to get the most out of his



Kurt Busch crosses the finish line ahead of Kyle Busch (18) to win the NASCAR Cup Series auto race at Kentucky Speedway in Sparta, Ky., Saturday, July 13, 2019.

Associated Press

equipment set the framework for Martin Truex Jr.'s 2017 championship.

Busch spent five years at Stewart-Haas Racing, overshadowed by Kevin Harvick the entire time, and when a new contract didn't materialize he moved to Ganassi and a struggling Chevrolet group. But if the car isn't competitive, no one bothered to tell Busch, who has been among the top Chevy drivers all year.

He has 11 top-10 finishes through 19 races, and his

Kentucky victory was the third consecutive for a resurgent Chevrolet effort. Busch has won with nine different crew chiefs in his Cup career, proving that in his case he can get it done if the car has speed.

Busch still has his cranky side, and he was difficult through the first third of the season with media because he didn't like NASCAR's policy that forced him to meet with reporters after qualifying. At Bristol early in the season, he

essentially repeated the same answer verbatim to every question asked: "The car was loose and we didn't get a good time. I did one lap and I'm in here talking for 30th. Car was loose, we didn't get a good time, I don't know what I can help you guys with."

After this weekend's win, Busch insisted he has made gains in all those personal areas that have left black marks on his resume. He credited his wife, Ashley, a professional polo player, for helping him see the bigger picture and settle down just a bit.

"The power of positivity is something she's taught me over these few years," he said. "You come in and you talk a game and you deliver it, and you do it with execution through team meetings, showing up early, staying late, and motivating guys to do a better job. And the way that I've won races in the past, I try to go after the weakness of a team and try to fix that first and then start to make things better as we go." □

Thomas blowing in the wind at Tour de France

By **SAMUEL PETREQUIN** and **JOHN LEICESTER**
AP Sports Writers

ALBI, France (AP) — Geraint Thomas and his teammates don't need a mountain to deliver a hammer blow on their rivals at the Tour de France.

They can do it on the flat, too. With a little help from the wind.

The defending champion was the big winner of a chaotic Stage 10 in southern France on Monday when French rival Thibaut Pinot and other title contenders were caught napping by a treacherous combination of winds and narrow roads. Unable to all ride at the front, Pinot and other riders got left behind when the winds first stretched and then shattered the peloton into groups over 35 frantic final kilometers (20 miles) of a 217.5-kilometer (135-mile) trek from Saint-Flour to Albi in south-central France.

Perfectly positioned at the front when the pack took different routes around a traffic circle, triggering the first split, Thomas and his Ineos teammates put pedal to the metal to make the gap on Pinot and other contenders caught behind as big as possible.

The bill for the French podium finisher in 2104, as well as Rigoberto Uran, Jakob Fuglsang, and Richie Porte was costly. They rode in a whopping 1 minute, 40 sec-



Belgium's Wout Van Aert, center, sprints to win the tenth stage of the Tour de France cycling race over 217 kilometers (135 miles) with start in Saint-Flour and finish in Albi, France, Monday, July 15, 2019.

Associated Press

onds behind Thomas.

"At the start we said at some point this race is going to split," explained Luke Rowe, one of Thomas' teammates. "We were all over it with numbers at the front."

Once opened, the gap increased speedily, with yellow jersey-holder Julian Alaphilippe and Ineos riders setting a frenetic tempo until the end.

"We were straight on the front foot, we knew it was on us to drive it to the line," Rowe said. "I was saying to the guys, 'This is a TTT (team time trial) all the way to the

finish line.'"

Tour de France rookie Wout Van Aert won the stage with a sprint to the line. But Thomas was the headline act.

"I couldn't think of anything better," Thomas said. "It's especially good on a day like today when you never expect it. It was just a positioning error from them and they lose a minute and a half. That's how it goes."

Ahead of big Pyrenean stages this week, Thomas vaulted to second place overall, 1:12 behind Alaphilippe, with teammate Egan Bernal in third place,

four seconds further back.

After a flawless start to the race, it was Pinot's first mistake, and a big one. Looking to become the first Frenchman to win the race since Bernard Hinault in 1985, he dropped from third to 11th overall, 2:33 behind Alaphilippe and 1:21 behind Thomas, perhaps not fatal to his Tour but a huge setback.

Pinot used an expletive to describe his day.

"What do you want me to say? There's nothing to say," he said, looking absolutely disgusted.

Tour de France director

Christian Prudhomme was almost as disappointed.

"He was ideally placed in the Tour and to be trapped like that in the last 35 kilometers of the stage before the rest day is sad for him," he said. "It's a lot of time lost."

The peloton split into three groups on a long but narrow section of road opened to the wind when Alaphilippe's Deceuninck Quick Step teammates sped up the pace at the front to close the gap to six breakaway riders. The fugitives were reeled in with 25 kilometers (15 miles) left before Thomas and Co., working well with Alaphilippe's team, pushed harder in an impressive display of collective strength.

"It's not only in the mountains where you can gain time, we have a strong team for days like today, too, and that's what we showed," Thomas' teammate Dylan van Baarle, said. Enjoying another day in yellow, Alaphilippe said he and his teammates were thinking about placing Elia Viviani for the finish-line sprint when they accelerated, not deliberately trying to hurt Pinot.

"We didn't plan to split the bunch. We only expected the stage to be nervous and tricky. Our intention was only to protect my yellow jersey and to focus on a sprint," he said. □



Seattle Sounders forward Raul Ruidiaz, left, scores on Atlanta goal keeper Brad Guzan, right, during the second half of an MLS soccer match Sunday, July 14, 2019, in Seattle.

Associated Press

By **The Associated Press**
SEATTLE (AP) — Raúl Ruidiaz and Harry Shipp scored to help the Seattle Sounders beat Atlanta United 2-1 on Sunday.

Shipp bounced a header into the net to break a 1-1 tie in the 71st minute. Jordan Morris stole a pass from Leandro González Pirez in the attacking half

Ruidiaz, Shipp score in Seattle's 2-1 win over Atlanta

and tapped it to Nicolás Lodeiro, whose though pass led Morris toward the end line. Morris chipped a first-timer to Shipp for the finish from the corner of the 6-yard box.

Ruidiaz chest-trapped a pass from Cristian Roldan, beat one defender and lobbed it over another before finishing with a volley from the center of the area to make open the scoring in the 58th minute.

Josef Martínez headed home a corner kick from

Gonzalo Martínez to tie it in the 65th. Josef Martínez has eight goals in his last five starts and 13 overall. Atlanta (9-8-3) is winless in its last three games.

Seattle (10-5-5) is unbeaten at home this season and has won three of its last four overall.

RED BULLS 2, NEW YORK CITY FC 1

HARRISON, N.J. (AP) — Daniel Royer scored twice in the New York's victory over New York City FC.

Luis Robles had four saves

for the Red Bulls, including a diving stop on Keaton Parks' shot in the 27th minute.

Royer headed home an entry by Cristian Cásseres Jr. to give the Red Bulls (9-7-4) a 2-1 lead in the 60th minute. Marc Ratzkowski, along the right end line, cut back to evade a defender and dropped it to Cásseres for a one-touch cross to Royer for the side-netter.

Héber Araujo dos Santos scored for NYCFC (7-3-8). □

Boxing champ Pernell Whitaker dies; hit by car in Virginia

By TIM DAHLBERG

AP Boxing Writer

Pernell Whitaker, an Olympic gold medalist and four division champion who was regarded as one of the greatest defensive fighters ever, has died after being hit by a car in Virginia. He was 55.

Police in Virginia Beach said the former fighter was hit by a car Sunday night. The driver of the car remained on the scene, and police said they were investigating the circumstances of the death.

Sweet Pea was Whitaker's nickname, and it fit perfectly. He was a master of getting hit and not getting hit back, a southpaw who slipped in and out of the pocket and rarely gave an opponent an opportunity to land a clean shot.

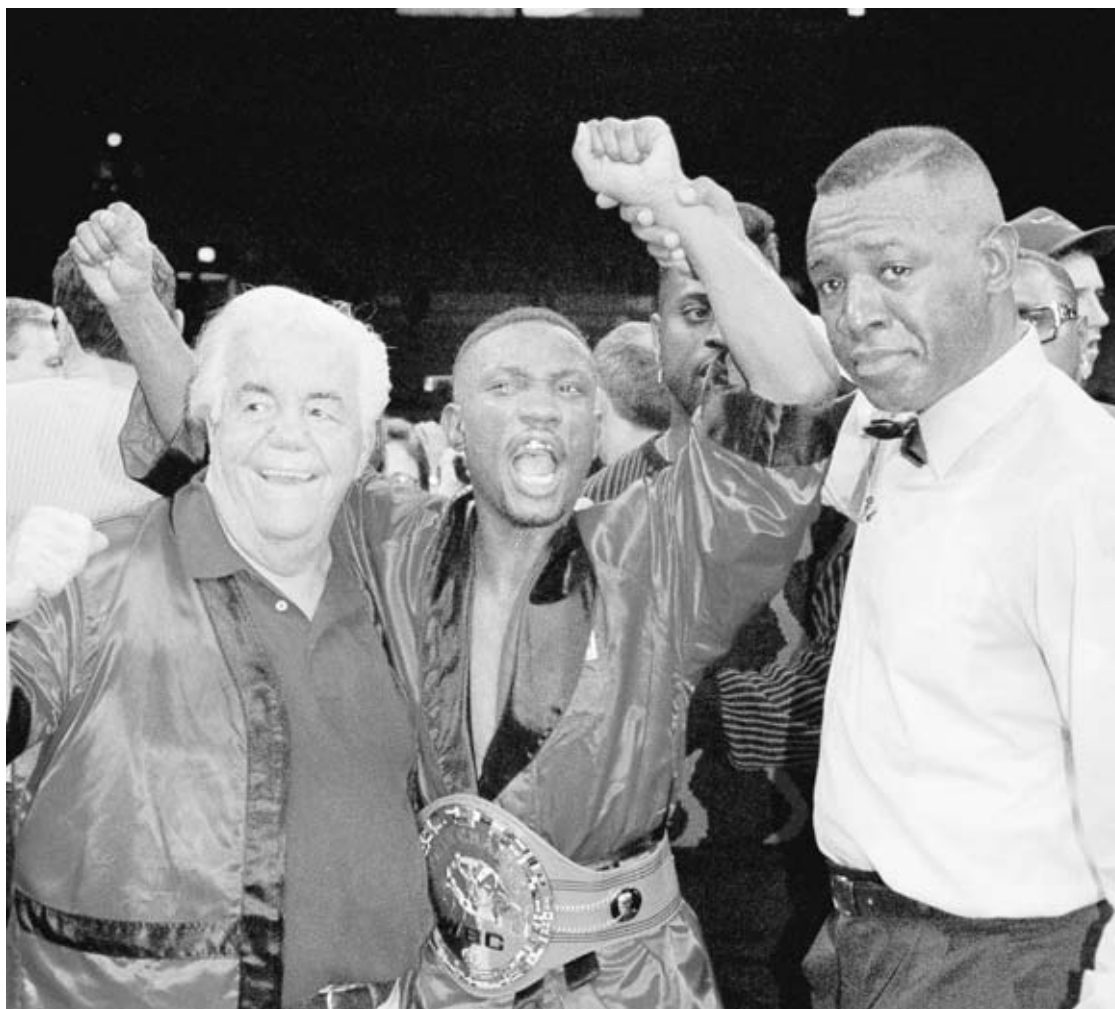
Whitaker won a gold medal at the 1984 Olympics in Los Angeles — one of nine U.S. champions that year — and made his pro debut on national television. He advanced quickly, and was fighting for a major title by his 17th fight, a loss to Jose Luis Ramirez that he would avenge the next year.

But Whitaker was also known as the victim of one of the worst decisions in boxing, a draw that allowed Julio Cesar Chavez to remain unbeaten in their welterweight showdown before a crowd of more than 60,000 at the Alamodome in San Antonio in 1993.

Four years later, Whitaker was on the losing end of another difficult decision against Oscar De La Hoya in Las Vegas, a fight many ringsiders thought he had won.

"When you see the list of greatest boxing robberies in history they were both No. 1 and No. 2 on the list," said Kathy Duva, his long-time promoter. "And every list of top 10 fighters of all time he was on, too."

Whitaker was a champion in four weight classes, winning his first one with a 1989 decision over Greg Haugen at lightweight, in a professional career that spanned 17 years. He finished with a record of 40-4-1 and was a



In this March 6, 1993, file photo, Pernell Whitaker celebrates after winning his third world championship with a unanimous decision over James "Buddy" McGirt in a 12-round bout at New York's Madison Square Garden.

Associated Press

first ballot selection into the International Boxing Hall of Fame.

His style was unique and it was effective, a hit-and-don't-be-hit strategy that was later adopted by a rising young fighter named Floyd Mayweather Jr. Whitaker and Mayweather never met in the ring, but Whitaker did win a decision over Mayweather's uncle, Roger, in 1987.

Still, it was two controversial decisions — one a draw, the other a loss — that may have defined his career more than anything.

The first came against Chavez, the Mexican great who was unbeaten in 87 fights when he and Whitaker met in a highly anticipated fight in San Antonio. Whitaker came out in his trademark style, confusing Chavez and frustrating the Mexican champion. Chavez stalked Whitaker throughout the fight, but Whitaker wasn't there to be found for the most part, and when he traded with Chavez he seemed to get the better of the Mexican. Ringside statistics showed

Whitaker landing 311 punches to 220 for Chavez, while throwing 153 more punches.

But when the decision came down, it was a draw that was roundly criticized throughout boxing.

"He would stand in the pocket and make everybody miss and frustrate the hell out of them," Duva said. "He said it was the most beautiful feeling in the world, to hit the other guy and not get hit."

Whitaker would go on to lose his next mega fight against De La Hoya, despite bloodying his opponent and seemingly out-boxing him over 12 rounds in their welterweight title fight. A poll of ringside writers showed the majority thought Whitaker won, and he thought so, too.

"Of course (I won) but that really doesn't matter," Whitaker said. "As long as the world saw it, then the people can say who won the fight. I should have gotten 10 out of 12 rounds. It was a shutout. For 12 rounds, he took punishment, he took a beating. He can have the title but we know who the best fighter is."

Whitaker's last big fight came near the end of his career, when Felix Trinidad scored a unanimous decision in their welterweight title fight at Madison Square Garden. He would fight only once more before retiring, and later worked as a trainer for fighters in the Virginia Beach area.

Former heavyweight champion George Foreman wrote on Twitter that

Whitaker was one of the greats in the art of boxing.

"When I first saw 'Pernell Sweet Pea Whitaker' in Training Camp; it was like watching a Cat with boxing gloves," Foreman said. "Best balance I'd ever seen in a Boxer."

Duva, whose Main Events company promoted all his fights, remembered Whitaker as being as sweet as his nickname. She said he was generous to a fault with a large group of family members, buying a house for many of them to live in before losing it after he retired from boxing.

Whitaker made millions in the ring — \$6 million for the De La Hoya fight alone — but Duva said he had little left in the end.

"He wasn't a spender. He was very modest," she said. "But he was supporting an awful lot of people for a long time."

A native of Norfolk, Whitaker battled alcohol problems throughout his adult life, Duva said. He also served time in prison after violating his probation in 2003 on a conviction for cocaine possession.

But in recent years Whitaker had been happy going to boxing events and meeting fans and signing autographs. He was supposed to be a part of the Manny Pacquiao-Keith Thurman fight night Saturday in Las Vegas, where he was going to be honored as a boxing legend.

"For years he wouldn't do those things," Duva said. "He found out that it was great, everybody was telling him how much they loved him and what a great fighter he was."

Duva said Whitaker was divorced and had four children. His family issued a statement saying the death was "one of the darkest moments in our lives." □



Old software makes new electoral systems ripe for hacking

WASHINGTON (AP) — Pennsylvania's message was clear: The state was taking a big step to keep its elections from being hacked in 2020. Last April, its top election official told counties they had to update their systems. So far, nearly 60% have taken action, with \$14.15 million of mostly federal funds helping counties buy brand-new electoral systems.

But there's a problem: Many of these new systems still run on old software that will soon be outdated and more vulnerable to hackers.

An Associated Press analysis has found that like many counties in Pennsylvania, the vast majority of 10,000 election jurisdictions nationwide use Windows 7 or an older operating system to create ballots, program voting machines, tally votes and report counts.

That's significant because Windows 7 reaches its "end of life" on Jan. 14, meaning Microsoft stops providing technical support and producing "patches" to fix software vulnerabilities, which hackers can exploit. In a statement to the AP, Microsoft said Friday it would offer continued Windows 7 security updates for a fee through 2023.

Critics say the situation is an example of what happens when private companies ultimately determine the security level of election systems with a lack of federal requirements or oversight. Vendors say they have been making consistent improvements in election systems. And many state officials say they are wary of federal involvement in state and local elections. It's unclear whether the often hefty expense of security updates would be paid by vendors operating on razor-thin profit margins or cash-strapped jurisdictions. It's also uncertain if a version running on Windows 10, which has more security features, can be certified and rolled out in time for primaries.

"That's a very serious concern," said J. Alex Halderman, a University of

Michigan professor and renowned election security expert. He said the country risks repeating "mistakes that we made over the last decade or decade-and-a-half when states bought voting machines but didn't keep the software up-to-date and didn't have any serious provisions" for doing

that runs on Windows 7, Marks said, her group will go to court to block the purchase. State elections spokeswoman Tess Hammock declined to comment because Georgia hasn't officially selected a vendor.

The election technology industry is dominated by

its end of life on Oct. 13, 2020, weeks before the election.

ES&S said it expects by the fall to be able to offer customers an election system running on Microsoft's current operating system, Windows 10. It's now being tested by a federally accredited lab.

often taking at least a year and costing six figures.

ES&S, the nation's largest vendor, completed its latest certification four months ago, using Windows 7. Hart's last certification was May 29 on a Windows version that also won't be supported by November 2020. Though ES&S is testing a new system it's unclear how long it will take to complete the process — federal and possible state recertification, plus rolling out updates — and if it will be done before primaries begin in February.

Election administrators notoriously suffer from insufficient resources. Recently, many jurisdictions splurged on new election systems, some using their portion of \$380 million in federal funds provided to states.

Counties in South Dakota, South Carolina and Delaware all recently bought election systems, while many others are evaluating purchases.

The use of election systems that still run on Windows 7 "is of concern, and it should be of concern," said U.S. Election Assistance Commission Chair Christy McCormick. EAC develops election system guidelines. McCormick noted that while election systems aren't supposed to be connected to the internet, various stages of the election process require transfers of information, which could be points of vulnerability for attackers. She said some election administrators are working to address the problem.

Officials in Pennsylvania, Michigan and Arizona say they have discussed the software issue with their vendors. Other states mentioned in this story didn't respond to AP requests for comment.

Pennsylvania elections spokeswoman Wanda Murren said contract language allows such a software upgrade for free. Arizona elections spokeswoman C. Murphy Hebert said ES&S has also assured the state that it will provide support to counties for an upgrade. □



In this June 13, 2019, photo, Steve Marcinkus, an investigator with the Office of the City Commissioners, demonstrates the ExpressVote XL voting machine at the Reading Terminal Market in Philadelphia.

Associated Press

so.

The AP surveyed all 50 states, the District of Columbia and territories, and found multiple battleground states affected by the end of Windows 7 support, including Pennsylvania, Wisconsin, Florida, Iowa, Indiana, Arizona and North Carolina. Also affected are Michigan, which recently acquired a new system, and Georgia, which will announce its new system soon.

"Is this a bad joke?" said Marilyn Marks, executive director of the Coalition for Good Governance, an election integrity advocacy organization, upon learning about the Windows 7 issue. Her group sued Georgia to get it to ditch its paperless voting machines and adopt a more secure system. Georgia recently piloted a system running on Windows 7 that was praised by state officials.

If Georgia selects a system

three titans : Omaha, Nebraska-based Election Systems and Software LLC; Denver, Colorado-based Dominion Voting Systems Inc.; and Austin, Texas-based Hart InterCivic Inc. They make up about 92% of election systems used nationwide, according to a 2017 study. All three have worked to win over states newly infused with federal funds and eager for an update.

U.S. officials determined that Russia interfered in the 2016 presidential election and have warned that Russia, China and other nations are trying to influence the 2020 elections.

Of the three companies, only Dominion's newer systems aren't touched by upcoming Windows software issues — though it has election systems acquired from no-longer-existing companies that may run on even older operating systems. Hart's system runs on a Windows version that reaches

For jurisdictions that have already purchased systems running on Windows 7, ES&S said it will be working with Microsoft to provide support until jurisdictions can update. Windows 10 came out in 2015.

Hart and Dominion didn't respond to requests for comment.

Microsoft usually releases patches for operating systems monthly, so hackers have learned to target older, unsupported systems. Its systems have been ground zero for crippling cyberattacks, including the WannaCry ransomware attack, which froze systems in 200,000 computers across 150 countries in 2017.

For many people, the end of Microsoft 7 support means simply updating. However, for election systems the process is more onerous. ES&S and Hart don't have federally certified systems on Windows 10, and the road to certification is long and costly,

Millennial Money: Investing is well within your reach

By SEAN PYLES
NerdWallet

News headlines might lead you to believe that millennials are striking out on a growing list of financial accomplishments: homeownership, paying off student loans — not to mention summoning the will to resist high-end coffee or avocado toast.

When it comes to investing, they might have a point. Investment firm TD Ameritrade surveyed 1,519 people ages 21-37 in 2018 and found that only 50% said they invest — including in their retirement accounts.

But, surprisingly, investing is likely one of the easier financial goals to meet. In just a few steps, millennials can set the stage for investing, get their first investing accounts going, then look to bigger investing goals.

SET THE FOUNDATION

Before you think about jumping into the stock market or other forms of investing, make sure your financial foundation is sound.

"Investing is great, but if you have something else that money could be doing to get your overall financial



In this June 9, 2019, file photo museum goers walk through the Phillip and Patricia Frost Museum of Science in Miami.

picture in shape, do that first," says Katrina Welker, a New York-based certified financial planner. "Get your budget under control and a regular savings habit established."

Get a handle on these three factors before you start investing:

High-Interest Debt Payments: Pay down high-

interest debts, like credit cards or a payday loan. Consolidating debt at a lower interest rate can speed up payoff.

You want the power of compounding interest to work for you, not against you. When you invest, you're earning interest on the money you put in, which raises the amount

you have. Then you earn more interest on that amount. With high-interest debts, it's just the opposite. Savings: Build up an emergency fund to cover unexpected expenses so you don't have to withdraw money from investments. Education: Research different approaches to investing and how to best

succeed at them. Also understand your timeline; any amount you'd need within five years may be better off in a high-yield savings account or CD. The rate of return won't be as high, but you're protected from locking in a big loss if you need to pull out of your investment to get your money when the market's in a slump.

START WITH THE ESSENTIAL INVESTMENT

"Probably the easiest place to start investing is through your employer retirement plan," Welker says.

Take advantage of the decades you have before retirement. By investing 10% to 15% of your income into your retirement account over many years, compounding interest and market returns will likely generate a sizable nest egg.

Here are two common retirement account options:

401(k): Offered by many employers, money is taken directly from your pay and put into an account. Employers often offer to match a portion of what you contribute, which is free money. □

Associated Press

Stocks edge lower as bank losses offset technology gains

By DAMIAN J. TROISE
Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Stocks edged lower in early trading Monday on Wall Street as a decline in banks offset solid gains in technology companies.

The losses follow record high finishes for every major stock index last week. The S&P 500 index also pushed above 3,000 for the first time.

Citi led banks lower, despite reporting a jump in profit that beat Wall Street forecasts. It is the first of the major U.S. banks to report second quarter financial results. The sector is currently under the shadow of expected interest rate cuts by the Federal Reserve. The move would hurt their ability to charge more interest on loans.

Broadcom helped lift the technology sector on re-

ports that it has ceased negotiations with Symantec, a security software maker. Apple also made solid gains.

Boeing weighed down the industrial sector as the airplane maker faces the possibility that its 737 Max problems could keep the plane grounded into next year.

Investors are keeping a close watch on several economic indicators this week. Retail sales and industrial production data are expected Tuesday. Several reports that could shed more light on the housing market's health are also expected. Data this week could push the Federal Reserve closer to cutting interest rates at its next meeting later in July.

Wall Street is also preparing for a disappointing round of corporate earnings. S&P 500 companies are on

track for an earnings drop of more than 3%, according to FactSet. That is far sharper than the fractional decline last quarter. Banks including Citi and JPMorgan Chase are among the biggest companies to report this week. Several other major companies will report results, including United Airlines, Netflix and UnitedHealth Group.

KEEPING SCORE: The S&P 500 index was unchanged as of 10:05 a.m. Eastern time. The Dow Jones industrial average was also unchanged. The Nasdaq composite rose slightly.

TAKE IT OR LEAVE IT: Circor plunged 14.3% after industrial products rival Crane threatened to end its hostile takeover bid. Crane said it will cease pursuing Circor if the company fails to engage in discussions this week. The ultimatum



In this July 1, 2019, file photo trader James Riley works on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange.

Associated Press

follows Circor's rejection of Crane's \$955 million offer.

DEAL OR NO DEAL?: Chip-maker Broadcom rose 2% and Symantec slumped 12.9% after CNBC reported that the companies ended negotiations over a possible deal.

SLOW AND STEADY: Galapagos surged 17.9% after

Gilead Sciences invested \$5 billion in the biotechnology company. The company is still in its development stage and has no product on the market. Its most promising drug candidate is now in its final series of studies aimed at treating arthritis and stomach conditions. □

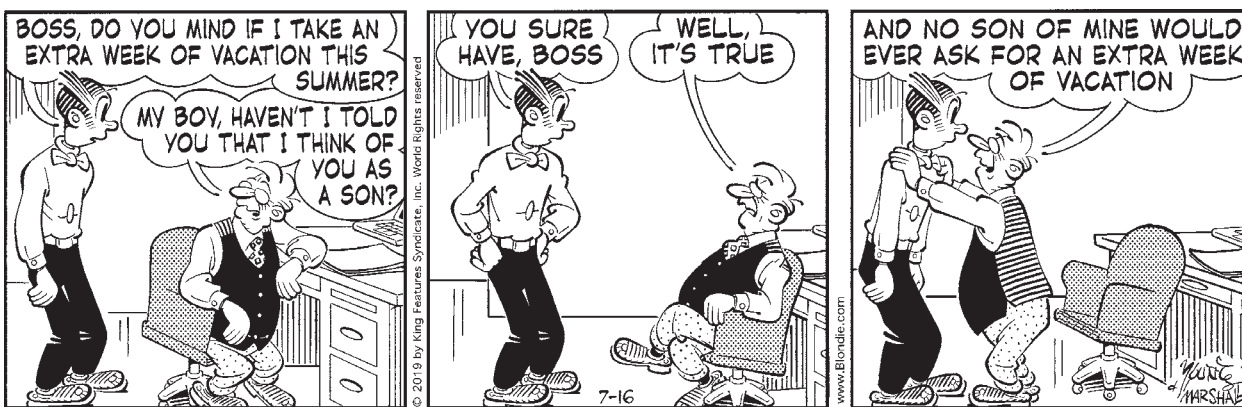
Mutts



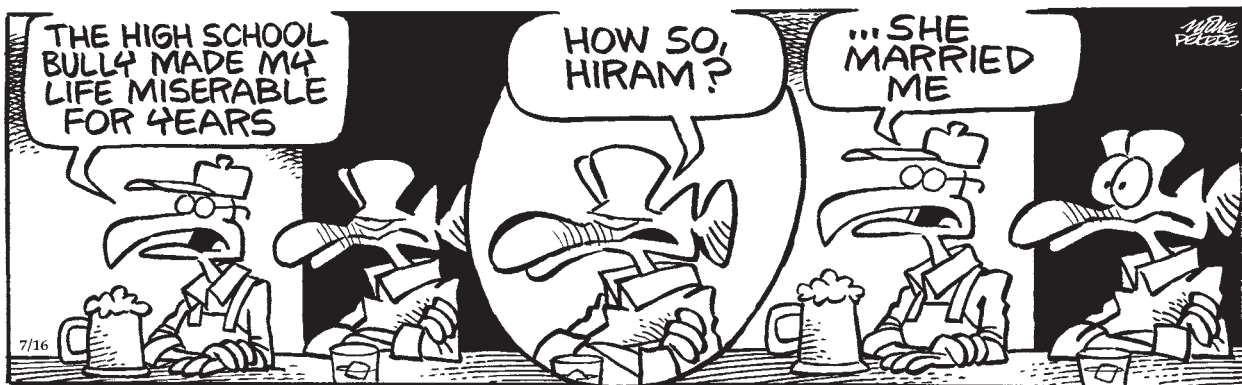
6 Chix



Blondie



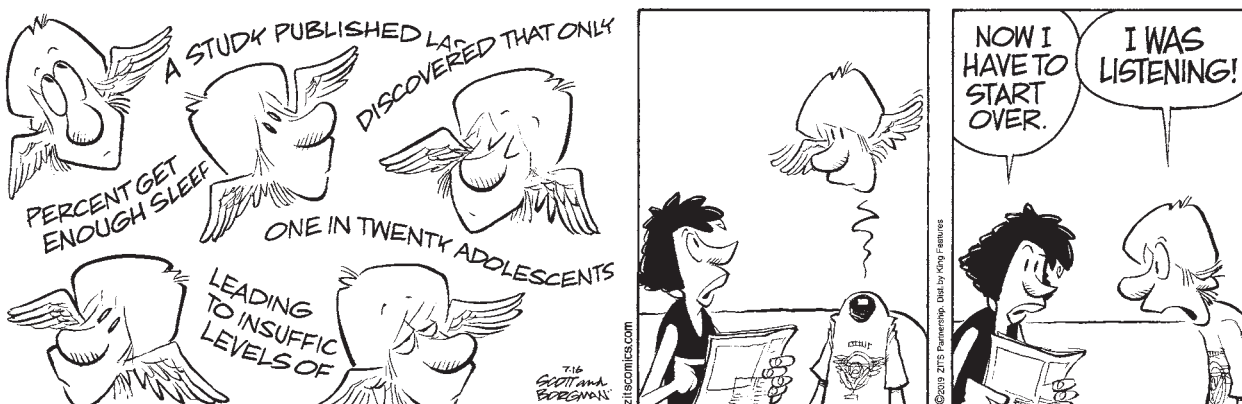
Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

1	2			3	7		6	5
9					2			8
5	6		1		4			
2								7
			7		8		2	1
4			5					2
7	5		8	1			3	9

Difficulty Level ★★

7/16

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

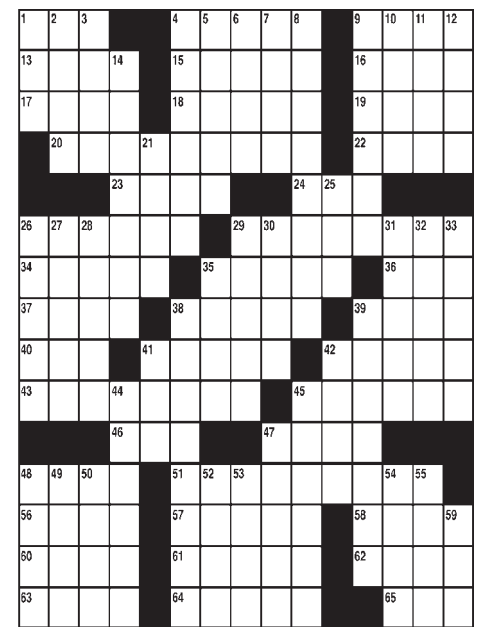
6	3	7	1	2	5	8	4	9
4	2	9	7	8	3	1	6	5
5	1	8	6	4	9	2	3	7
2	7	1	5	3	6	4	9	8
8	9	6	4	1	7	3	5	2
3	5	4	8	9	2	6	7	1
7	4	5	2	6	1	9	8	3
1	8	3	9	5	4	7	2	6
9	6	2	3	7	8	5	1	4

ACROSS

- 1 Read the riot to; berate
4 Heroic tales
9 British fellow
13 Regrets
15 Vainglory
16 Period of time
17 Storm sound
18 Concur
19 Additional
20 Jutted out
22 on fire; ignites
23 Facial feature
24 Commit perjury
26 Czech Republic's capital
29 Crushing coffee beans
34 Not as common
35 steak; meat for London broil, often
36 Knave
37 Kaput
38 Lingo
39 Ocean motion
40 Jerry Stiller's boy
41 McKinley or Whitney
42 Duel action
43 of; in love with
45 Archer's goal
46 "American Idol" network
47 Ruptured; back problem
48 Subsidies
51 Very necessary
56 Plumbing problem
57 Small brooks
58 Waterbird
60 Built
61 Make joyous
62 Despise
63 Took to court
64 Fit for a king
65 However

DOWN

- 1 Lob's path
2 Actor Robert



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

7/16/19

Monday's Puzzle Solved

GUM	AORTA	ARTS
DINE	BROAD	VIAL
AVID	SALMONELLA	
DEF	CELLS	ERECT
OVENS	PAS	
PARENT	ARREST	
ADMIT	FIXES	HAT
PAIL	MONEY	LOBE
APT	MARKS	MAPLE
TYRANT	PACKED	
ACE	PAYEE	
ABODE	TRALA	ENG
REDISTRICT	UPON	
CADS	OILER	PERU
HUSH	MOLDY	ARM

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7/16/19

- 38 Wizard
39 From Istanbul
41 Unruly crowd
42 Final
44 Wearing a disguise
45 Christmas tree glitter
47 Actress Burke
48 Shady bunch
49 Escort
50 Commanded
52 Farm outbuilding
53 Vanquish
54 Take; subtract
55 Overdue
59 Profit

Man convicted of trafficking sharks kept in his basement

Associated Press

LAGRANGEVILLE, N.Y. (AP)

— A man who kept sharks in a pool in his upstate New York basement has been convicted of trafficking wildlife.

The state Department of Environmental Conservation and the attorney general's office say Friday that Joshua Seguire, of LaGrangeville, pleaded guilty to illegal commercialization of wildlife. He'll be sentenced in September.

The 38-year-old Seguire was stopped by authorities in Georgia in July 2017 when he was transporting five live sharks in the back of his truck. Investigators found Seguire had offered sharks for sale online under the name Aquatic Apex Life.

Investigators searched Seguire's home and found an 18-foot-diameter (5.7-meter-diameter) pool containing seven 2- to 4-foot-long (half-meter- to 1.2-meter-long) sandbar sharks, a protected species. They also found three dead sharks.

The rescued sharks are now at the New York Aquarium in Coney Island. □

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Studio wk 29/30
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Goldseason
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2BR Oceanview \$8K
2BR Oceanfront \$12K
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Scientists close in on blood test for Alzheimer's



In this July 9, 2019 photo, Dr. Jori Fleisher, neurologist, examines Thomas Doyle, 66, at the Rush University Medical Center in Chicago. Associated Press

By MARILYNN MARCHIONE
AP Chief Medical Writer
LOS ANGELES (AP) —

Scientists are closing in on a long-sought goal — a blood test to screen people for possible signs of Alzheimer's disease and other forms of dementia.

On Monday at the Alzheimer's Association International Conference, half a dozen research groups gave new results on various experimental tests, including one that seems 88% accurate at indicating Alzheimer's risk.

Doctors are hoping for something to use during routine exams, where most dementia symptoms are evaluated, to gauge who needs more extensive testing. Current tools such as brain scans and spinal flu-

id tests are too expensive or impractical for regular check-ups.

"We need something quicker and dirtier. It doesn't have to be perfect" to be useful for screening, said Maria Carrillo, the Alzheimer's Association's chief science officer.

Dr. Richard Hodes, director of the National Institute on Aging, called the new results "very promising" and said blood tests soon will be used to choose and monitor people for federally funded studies, though it will take a little longer to establish their value in routine medical care.

"In the past year we've seen a dramatic acceleration in progress" on these tests, he said. "This has happened at a pace that is far faster

than any of us would have expected."

It can't come too soon for patients like Tom Doyle, a 66-year-old former university professor from Chicago who has had two spinal fluid tests since developing memory problems four years ago. First he was told he didn't have Alzheimer's, then that he did. He ultimately was diagnosed with different problems — Lewy body dementia with Parkinson's.

"They probably could have diagnosed me years ago accurately if they had had a blood test," said Doyle, who represents patients on the Alzheimer's Association's board.

About 50 million people worldwide have dementia, and Alzheimer's is the most common form. There is no cure; current medicines just temporarily ease symptoms. Dozens of hoped-for treatments have failed. Doctors think studies may have enrolled people after too much brain damage had occurred and included too many people with problems other than

Alzheimer's.

A blood test — rather than subjective estimates of thinking skills — could get the right people into studies sooner.

One of the experimental blood tests measures abnormal versions of the protein that forms the plaques in the brain that are the hallmark of Alzheimer's. Last year, Japanese researchers published a study of it and on Monday they gave results from validation testing on 201 people with Alzheimer's, other types of dementia, mild impairment or no symptoms.

The blood test results closely matched those from the top tests used now — three types of brain scans and a mental assessment exam, said Dr. Akinori Nakamura of the National Center for Geriatrics and Gerontology in Obu, Japan. The test correctly identified 92% of people who had Alzheimer's and correctly ruled out 85% who did not have it, for an overall accuracy of 88%.

Shimadzu Corp. has rights to the test and is working

to commercialize it, Nakamura said.

Another experimental test looks at neurofilament light, a protein that's a marker of nerve damage. Abdul Hye of King's College London gave results of a study comparing blood levels of it in 2,300 people with various neurological conditions — Alzheimer's, other dementias, Parkinson's, depression, multiple sclerosis, Lou Gehrig's disease — plus healthy folks for comparison.

Levels were significantly higher in eight conditions, and only 2% of healthy folks were above a threshold they set for raising concern. The test doesn't reveal which disorder someone has, but it may help rule one out when symptoms may be psychological or due to other problems.

Later at the conference, Dr. Randall Bateman of Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis will give new results on a blood test he helped develop that the university has patented and licensed to C2N Diagnostics, a company he co-founded. Like the Japanese test, it measures the abnormal Alzheimer protein, and the new results will show how well the test reflects what brain scans show on nearly 500 people. "Everyone's finding the same thing ... the results are remarkably similar across countries, across techniques," said Bateman, whose work is supported by the U.S. government and the Alzheimer's Association. He estimates a screening test could be as close as three years away.

What good will that do without a cure?

An Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research poll last year found that most Americans would want to know if they carried a gene tied to a disease even if it was incurable.

"What people want most of all is a diagnosis" if they're having symptoms, said Jonathan Schott of University College London. "What we don't like is not knowing what's going on." □

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Cuban singer becomes pioneer of #MeToo movement on island

HAVANA (AP) — Dianelys Alfonso has a bold presence — brightly colored tattoos, spandex bodysuits, Technicolor hair — and a clarion voice that won her the label "Goddess of Cuba" for her turns on songs ranging from ballads to reggaeton.

Now she's also the center of a new phenomenon in Cuba after publicly accusing another renowned musician, flutist and bandleader José Luis Cortés, of repeatedly assaulting and raping her during their yearslong relationship while she was a vocalist for NG La Banda, one of the best-known Cuban bands of the last three decades. Since Alfonso's accusations against Cortés on an internet video program last month, many Cubans have declared their support for her online, calling her the pioneer of the #MeToo movement in a country where open discussion of violence against women is rare.

Cortés has not publicly responded to the allegations or to messages seeking comment left by The Associated Press on his band's social media accounts or with his promoters.

Within hours of speaking to video host Alex Otaola and alleging that she had been abused by Cortés, hundreds of Cubans on the island and in its diaspora in the United States, Latin America and Europe began posting messages of support for Alfonso with the hashtags #IBelieveYou-Goddess, #MeTooInCuba and #YouAreNotAlone.

Alfonso also has received reams of abusive messages calling her a liar and accusing her of besmirching Cortés' reputation to win greater renown.

"I look at everything happening online and I'm really stunned," the 38-year-old singer told The Associated Press. "I can't really understand what's happening online. I'm just trying to keep getting professional psychological help to deal with everything that's come at me for having told the truth."



In this June 28, 2019, photo, Dianelys Alfonso, singer whose voice won her the label "Goddess of Cuba" sits during an interview with The Associated Press in Havana, Cuba.

Associated Press

Online activism of any kind is relatively new to Cuba, which only began permitting mobile internet this year. Until recently, open discussion of domestic abuse also has been rare in a communist society where the government portrays itself as able to take care of every social problem and where there are only a handful of non-governmental women's rights groups.

The government last year organized a public campaign to raise consciousness of domestic violence, with posters and announcements in official media under the slogans "You Are More" and "Evolve," though that appeared to focus more on physical than sexual abuse. Some 500 Cuban artists and intellectuals have signed an open letter of support for Alfonso that condemns violence against women on a Facebook page titled, "I Believe You."

Actress and producer Violeta Rodríguez, daughter of Cuban singer Silvio Rodríguez, wrote on her Facebook page last month that she had been abused by a "famous and powerful" Cuban man but had remained silent for years. The post was later deleted, without explanation.

Alfonso was lead singer for NG La Banda from 2003

to 2009, and was involved romantically with Cortés for much of that time. She said Cortés repeatedly hit her, raped her and verbally abused her, in private and in public, during their relationship and after it ended. She said the abuse finally stopped after she left the group in the middle of an

Italian tour in 2009 and did not return to Cuba until 2014.

Alfonso's lawyer, Deyni Terry, said Cortés sent the singer a threatening text message after she went public with the accusations. Alfonso reported the threat to police, Terry said, adding that she and her client

were investigating whether they can bring charges of abuse and sexual assault against Cortés so many years after the alleged crimes took place.

"Many victims wait years to say what happened and that complicates judicial action, especially in Cuba where many laws are outdated," the lawyer said.

Cuban authorities did not immediately respond to a request for comment on the case.

Terry said the online reaction to Alfonso's accusations appeared to be a sign of changing attitudes on the island.

"People are being more daring, speaking out, talking about taboo topics," she said. "They're taking risks and have more freedom to speak out."

A national poll conducted in 2016 and published this year showed that some 27% of 10,698 women who responded to a questionnaire reported being mistreated or abused by a man over the past 12 months but less than 4% sought help. □

Tycho takes new direction on 'Weather'

By RAGAN CLARK
Associated Press

Tycho, "Weather" (Mom + Pop/Ninja Tune) California-artist Scott Hansen, better known as Tycho, is back with his fifth studio album "Weather," one that begins much as one might expect.

Opener "Easy" is an instrumental, electronic track in the same vein as his previous work — atmospheric and upbeat. A woman's voice pushes through, but her words are indistinct.

By the second song, though, the deviation from past albums is clear. "Pink & Blue" opens with Saint Sinner's ethereal voice as she sings, "Oh pink and blue, yeah, you know I look good on you."

Hearing vocals comes as a surprise. Tycho's past work has been almost exclusively instrumental, falling on the brighter side of the down-tempo music spec-



This cover image released by Mom + Pop/Ninja Tune shows "Weather," the latest release by Tycho.

Associated Press

trum. Samples of people speaking, such as a broadcaster giving a report, are used on albums like "Past Is Prologue," but never before has he been accom-

panied by a vocalist. On "Weather," the vocal presence only gains strength as the songs continue, giving Hansen's work an entirely new feel. □

Aryeh Nussbaum Cohen a high-voiced rising star at 25

By MIKE SILVERMAN

Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Aryeh Nussbaum Cohen's improbable career has brought him rapidly to the brink of operatic stardom at age 25. So it's not surprising that the Brooklyn-born countertenor would fall prey to feeling a "kind of impostor syndrome" when he walked on stage. "Up until this time I've always had this feeling of, 'What,

me? Really?'" Cohen said in an interview at the War Memorial Opera House, where he was finishing a June run of performances as Medoro in Handel's "Orlando." But something changed on opening night. "I wasn't nervous at all," Cohen said. "For the first time I'm feeling I really belong here and I can hold my own." Indeed, he did more than that. His second-act aria, "Verdi allori," regularly drew



This June 4, 2019 photo released by the San Francisco Opera shows Aryeh Nussbaum Cohen during a production of "Orlando" at the San Francisco Opera.

Associated Press

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some of the evening's biggest applause, and Joshua Kosman in the San Francisco Chronicle singled him out for his "strong and gleaming" tone and "endlessly eloquent" phrasing. Cohen is one of a young generation of countertenors who are popularizing a once-obscure vocal register that lies above normal tenor range and requires them to sing in falsetto or "head voice." The repertoire for these singers was once limited mainly to baroque composers like Monteverdi and Handel, who wrote roles for male castrati. But many contemporary composers, like Philip Glass and Thomas Ades, are making use of countertenors as well. Cohen's career path has been more unusual even than his voice type. Winning a spot in the prestigious Brooklyn Youth Chorus at age 11, he watched the other boys "as their voices dropped and they would leave the ensemble. "But you know what? I didn't want to," said Cohen, whose cherubic features seem to go along with his angelic sound. Somehow he managed to keep singing the high notes and persuaded the chorus director to let him stay. "Presumably I have some natural predisposition toward being a counter-

tenor," he said. "But I think more than anything that starting every single day when my voice dropped, every single day since then I've sung in my falsetto. I had no idea what I was doing. I was truly just finagling to sing the high notes." Though he took voice lessons throughout high school it wasn't until he was a freshman at Princeton University and saw his first opera — Puccini's "La Bohème" at the Metropolitan Opera — that he felt the excitement of that art form. "These people pouring their souls out directly to you, it just blew me away and changed my life," he said. Graduating in 2015 with a degree in government (and certificates in vocal performance and Judaic studies), Cohen applied to numerous master's programs in voice and post-graduate fellowships, and then, as he puts it, "The hammer came down." "I got to the finals for almost everything," he recalled, "and then in a span of a week I got rejected from everything." But Cohen was determined to pursue a career in opera. He supported himself as an SAT tutor while taking voice lessons on his own. Breaks started coming when San Francisco's Merola Opera Program accepted him for its 2016 summer appren-

ticeship. "I remember when he auditioned for me," said Sheri Greenawald, who runs the San Francisco Opera Center training programs. "He was 21, and I thought, 'You look like you're 12.'" Greenawald said the judges listened live to 550 applicants and Cohen was one of just 23 accepted. "For me it was a no-brainer," she said, "He's a nice tall kid who can make a sound. I heard a special voice in a special package." After Merola, he earned a two-year stint as one of the company's Adler Fellows, and also was invited to join the Houston Grand Opera Studio during the 2017-18 season. What really put him on what he calls the "opera world's radar" was his triumph in the Metropolitan Opera's National Council Auditions in 2017. He was one of six winners after four rounds of competition, and in the finals his performances of a Handel aria and a piece from Jonathan Dove's "Flight" earned him a rave review in The New York Times. Though he had originally been hired as understudy for the role of Medoro, he was promoted this spring to the full run when San Francisco dismissed David Daniels, who has been charged with sexual assault. □

Film producer and Holocaust survivor Artur Brauner dies

By GEIR MOULSON

Associated Press

BERLIN (AP) — Artur Brauner, a Polish-born Holocaust survivor who became one of post-World War II Germany's most prominent film producers, died Sunday at age 100.

Brauner's family said he died in Berlin, the German news agency dpa reported.

Culture Minister Monika Gruetters said Germany has lost one of the most important film producers of the post-war years, saying it was "a great gift for our country" that Brauner chose to make movies in Germany and support its democratic rebuilding. She also paid tribute to his efforts over the decades to ensure that the victims of the Holocaust were not forgotten.

Brauner produced hundreds of films. They included several 1960s revivals of the "Dr. Mabuse" crime movies and other hits such as "Girls in Uniform," starring Romy Schneider.

Several of the films he produced had Holocaust theme, including Agnieszka Holland's Golden Globe-winning "Europa Europa" about a boy in Nazi Germany joining the Hitler Youth to try to conceal the fact he is Jewish.

His "Babi Yar" in 2003 centered on the 1941 Nazi mas-



In this Monday, July 28, 2008 file photo, Artur Brauner, a Polish-born Holocaust survivor who became one of Germany's most prominent post-World War II film producers, poses for a portrait in Berlin.

Associated Press

sacre of Jews in Ukraine, in which several of Brauner's relatives were killed. Brauner was disappointed by the lack of box-office success for the film in Germany, saying the test of "whether the German cinema public has become politically more mature" had "clearly negative" results.

He also had a share in producing "The Garden of the Finzi-Continis," set in Benito Mussolini's Italy, which won the Oscar for best foreign-language movie in 1972.

Brauner described "Mori-

turi," a 1948 movie about a group of concentration camp inmates helped to escape by a Polish doctor near the end of the war, as his most important film. It received a negative reception at the time but Brauner called it "practically the first film that dealt with the issue of Nazi victims."

Brauner believed his lighter post-war films matched the public's taste.

"People wanted to be entertained after the terrible war, and I had a feeling

for the needs of the audience," he told the Funke newspaper group in 2018. His persistence helped. He recalled driving 36 times through communist East Germany from Berlin to Munich in his rickety Volkswagen to persuade the actress Maria Schell to play the part of a penniless pregnant woman in the 1955 drama "The Rats," one of his favorite films.

Brauner said there was no one in the movie business he would never work with again, though there were

plenty he would like another chance to work with — among them the late director Fritz Lang, "if he would keep to my budget targets."

In recent years, Brauner was worried by the rise of right-wing populism in Europe.

"I can only recommend to young people that they don't fall into the clutches of populists around the world and stand up with all their might to nationalism, racism, anti-Semitism and xenophobia — now and not when it is already too late," he the dpa news agency in 2018.

The son of a Jewish wood merchant, he was born as Abraham Brauner on Aug. 1, 1918, in the Polish city of Lodz. Brauner discovered his love for the cinema at an early age and often went straight from school to a screening. After finishing school in 1936, he joined an expedition of young documentary filmmakers to the Middle East, then studied in Lodz until Nazi Germany invaded Poland in 1939.

Brauner, his parents and four siblings fled east and survived the war.

His parents later emigrated to Israel. Brauner himself considered emigrating to the United States, but her briefly returned to Lodz, then moved to Berlin with his brother, Wolf. □

'This Side of Night' is suspenseful, thought-provoking

By BRUCE DESILVA

Associated Press

"This Side of Night" (G.P. Putnam's Sons), by J. Todd Scott

In Texas' Big Bend country, Sheriff Chris Cherry, the protagonist of J. Todd Scott's previous two novels, may finally have run into more than he and his smattering of small-town peace officers can handle.

War between Mexican cartels has broken out again over control of the cross-border drug trade, with busloads of student protesters gunned down on the Mexican side of the Rio Grande and bodies of drug mules washing up on

Cherry's side.

To make matters worse, El Paso DEA agent Joe Garrison has doubts about the loyalties of one of Cherry's favorite officers, America Reynosa, whose extended family includes a cartel leader. Still worse, Garrison suspects the sheriff in one of Cherry's neighboring counties is on a cartel payroll.

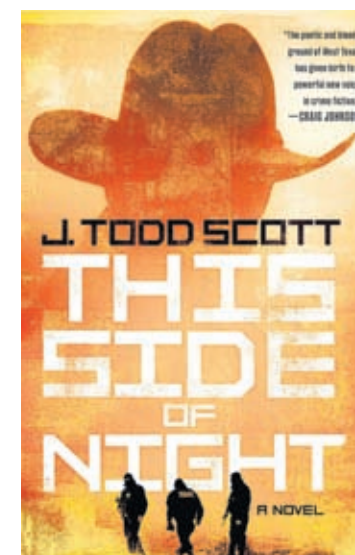
That's the premise of "This Side of Night," a crime novel populated with compelling, well-drawn characters. In addition to Cherry, Reynosa, Garrison and their families, there's Deputy Danny Ford, who's tormented by dreams of his service in Afghanistan; Eddy Lee

Rabbit, a strung-out meth addict whom Ford is trying to save; Fox Uno, an aging drug lord with more blood on his hands than he could ever wash off; and two survivors of the bus attack who are desperately trying to escape to America.

America's war on drugs is well-trod territory in crime fiction, and T. Jefferson Parker's Ronald Ford series and Don Winslow's border trilogy have set a high bar for those who dare to follow. But Scott's 20-year career as a DEA agent infuses his work with realism, and his writing chops will make readers wonder why he waited so long to launch

his literary career.

It is no easy thing, for example, to clearly describe a chaotic gun battle. It's especially difficult when there are three different groups blazing away when it unfolds on ground readers are unfamiliar with, and when more than 250 rounds are fired in a matter of minutes. Yet Scott does it brilliantly. Better yet, his descriptions of dry, stark Big Bend country are so vivid and poetic they approach the beauty of James Lee Burke's passages about Louisiana bayou country. The result is a fine novel that is suspenseful, action-packed, literary, and thought-provoking. □



This cover image released by G.P. Putnam's Sons shows "This Side of Night," a novel by J. Todd Scott.

Associated Press



This Sept. 10, 2018 photo shows a view from the top of medieval hill town Cortona, in the province of Arezzo in the Tuscany region of Italy.

Associated Press

By ANNE D'INNOCENZIO
Associated Press

CORTONA, Italy (AP) — After my breast cancer diagnosis and as I was going through what would be more than a year of treatments that included chemotherapy and radiation, I vowed I would return to Italy. Both sets of my grandparents emigrated from there, and I always turned to Italy as a source of comfort.

At first, I wasn't sure what part of Italy I would travel. The last time I was there was in 1998. But when my sister and brother-in-law invited me for a one-week stay at a villa in Cortona in Tuscany, I knew my plans were set.

My plan was to spend a week in Rome with a friend. Then, I would join my sister and brother-in-law and

their friends on the second leg of the trip. I had never been to Cortona, the walled medieval hilltop town popularized by Frances Mayes' memoir "Under the Tuscan Sun," later made into a movie. We would use Cortona, nestled near the border of the Umbria region, as our base and then travel to different parts of Tuscany.

I hoped to be inspired by one of Italy's most romanticized regions, with its cultural and artistic legacy, its post-card views of rolling hills dotted with stone farms and medieval castles, and its food — simple but flavorful. And just maybe, I could reconnect with my relatives on my mom's side who lived in the Siena area. I hadn't seen them since 1984, and we had lost touch over the years after my grandfather

and great uncle in the United States passed away. But my experience was beyond what I expected. By staying at the villa, I was able to have a deeper understanding of the Tuscan culture and live like a Tuscan resident. We shopped for groceries at the local supermarket, cooked dinner at the house, and went on walks among the fields of sunflowers, olive trees and grapevines. We washed clothes and hung them out to dry (dryers are not the norm in Italy). I woke up to the crowing of roosters. And I met a wonderful group of residents including American-born chef Ryan Hanley and his Italian wife Debora Mazzierli; we visited their centuries-old Tuscan stone home for cooking classes.

We stayed at the villa Il Barattino, which had a swimming pool, washing machine, satellite TV and free Wi-Fi connections. It rented for little over \$800 a night and sleeps 12 and is managed by Cortona-based Hill Towns Tours, which manages villas in Tuscany. The villa consisted of two buildings, which combined had six bedrooms. If you rent a villa with friends, you can cut the cost of the rental fees and the car rentals. And we saved money by eating in a few nights using the spacious kitchen and outdoor dining areas. Location is key. Our villa, set apart from the main road,

Basking in the Tuscan Sun

was about seven miles to the town center. Cortona is about an hour drive to key medieval hill towns like Assisi and Montepulciano, home of the Vino Nobile wines. And you could take a train from Cortona to Florence.

Every day, we looked forward to a new activity, some we planned on our own; others were planned by Mazzierli, who also acted as our tour guide. She gave us a tour of San Galgano, where we visited the gothic style 13th century abbey which no longer has a roof, as well as San Gimignano, known for its many medieval towers. Another day, we went wine tasting. We first visited a local small winery called Leuta. Then, we went to Montepulciano, where we visited the family-run Ercolani winery's wine shop and then toured its underground wine cellars and its medieval museum — and then sampled its wine with cheese and salami. On the days to ourselves, we wandered the medieval streets of Cortona's center, and spent some time at the Etruscan museum. In Assisi, we visited the Basilica of St. Francis, where we saw the famous Giotto frescos.

Every meal was an epicurean feast. Among the highlights; eating pici pasta at La Loggetta, overlooking the main square in Cortona, sampling the massive seafood platter at Morgan's, which overlooked

Lake Tresimano, and tasting the sumptuous zucchini flower appetizer at Osteria del Teatro in Cortona. In Assisi, I had a delicious melon and prosciutto salad at Le Terrazze di Properzio, which offered breathtaking panoramic views of the town. One of the most intimate food experiences? The cooking class at the home of Hanley and Mazzierli. We cooked such dishes as zucchini flan, Tuscan ragu sauce, and stuffed tomatoes with rice under their supervision. And we made our own pici pasta, made with flour, water and olive oil. Mazzierli encouraged us to "eat with our heart, not with our stomach."

And yes, my sister and I — armed with a GPS and a 30-year old address my mom gave us — did connect with our relatives, the most magical moment of my trip. They showed us family photo albums. My cousin Antonio showed us a spool of thread that my grandfather had given him years ago from his clothing factory. To him, it was the symbol of the American dream. They called other relatives, and soon, the house was packed. The pasta came out, followed by sauteed chicken, pickled zucchini and vanilla gelato. Our hearts were full.

This trip was more than checking off a bucket list. This was a celebration of life. And so, in that spirit, I promised my relatives I would be back next year. □



This Sept. 13, 2018 photo shows Anne D'Innocenzio, standing right, right, and her sister, Donna Burke, posing with their Italian relatives in Torrita di Siena, Italy.

Associated Press



This Sept. 9, 2018 photo shows sliced Chianina T-bone with arugula, parmesan shavings and peppercorns prepared by local Tuscan chef Ryan Hanley at Il Barattino, the villa in Cortona, Italy.

Associated Press